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North Sea
oil falls
below
\$20 mark

LONDON. — Oil prices on the London spot market yesterday dived below the key psychological barrier of \$20 a barrel, continuing a downward trend originating in the December 9 Opec summit that voted to defend market share rather than prices.

The slide is likely to have huge repercussions for debt-ridden countries heavily dependent on oil revenue, such as Mexico and Nigeria, as well as for nations with a more varied economy, such as Norway and Britain.

New York analysts said that crude oil prices may fall into the \$15 to \$18 range if the supply remains higher than world markets can absorb.

Bank sources here said Britain, whose North Sea revenues have caused sterling to be viewed virtually as a petro-currency, could increase its interest rates, which were raised from 11.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent only 12 days ago in order to protect the pound.

The Conservative Government's economic plans, which include income tax cuts, could also be affected.

North Sea Brent Crude was quoted at \$20.55 for delivery in February, \$19.35 for April and \$19.5 for May. Last Friday's close saw figures of \$22.05 and \$20.5 for February and May.

In New York, West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark crude, shed \$1.64 to \$21.91 by mid-session, against \$23.53 at Friday's close.

Shortly after the December 9 Opec meeting, spot prices were more than \$30 a barrel, amid heavy buying for the winter. Five years ago prices reached a zenith of nearly \$40.

However, despite occasional upswings, caused by such factors as the Iran-Iraq war and the 1984/85 British miners' strike, there has been a long overall decline in prices.

Energy conservation by consuming nations, lack of discipline among Opec countries and increasing output by non-Opec countries are generally seen as the main causes.

The current downward pressure was attributed by sellers to a sudden influx of oil from most of the Opec countries, especially from Saudi Arabia, the pivotal country in Opec, which has warned it will no longer continue pumping oil at below its quota.

Another influence has been a downturn in demand, as buyers have been anticipating lower prices and drawing on their stocks.

At the same time, winter in the northern hemisphere has been exceptionally mild so far, which has reduced the demand for oil.

All Opec members, with the possible exception of Iran — whose output has been affected by attacks on Kharg Island and Algeria, are overstepping their quotas, the latest figures show.

Japanese buyers yesterday scrambled for cheap North Sea oil, turning away from traditional suppliers in the Middle East and Asia.

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Syria moves troops against Jemayel
Blast kills 27 near
Phalangist office

BEIRUT (Reuters). — A car bomb left almost 130 casualties in Christian East Beirut yesterday as Syria massed troops and artillery near President Amin Jemayel's mountain village of Bikfaya.

Witnesses said elite Syrian units were installing 120mm. artillery positions and bringing up scores of Soviet-made T-54 tanks to within 500 metres of Lebanese Army positions defending Bikfaya. 18 kilometres northeast of Beirut.

The blast came only days after pitched battles between Christian factions forced the chief of the Lebanese forces, Elie Hobeika, into exile and wrecked a Syrian-brokered peace pact he had signed with Moslems. Israel Television reported last night that Hobeika was on his way from Paris to Damascus to continue the fight against Jemayel.

Security sources said a booby-trapped car killed 27 people and wounded more than 100 when it blew up in a crowded shopping street near an office of the pro-Jemayel

Phalangist Party. Blood-spattered civilians ran in panic as police and troops fired in the air to clear a path for ambulances swerving through debris ripped from buildings by the blast.

"God loves us, that is why we were not killed," said a Phalangist fighter at the rubble-strewn party office. Syria, angered by the victory of the Phalangists and rebels within Hobeika's militia, has encouraged its Moslem and leftist allies to ignite fronts at Bikfaya and in north Lebanon, but is not known to have joined the fighting directly.

"The Syrians are coming to help us topple Jemayel," a pro-Syrian militia commander told Reuters in the Syrian-held village of Dhour Shweir as his men fired Soviet-made Grad rockets into Christian areas.

Radio stations also said Druze gunners traded shellfire with army troops at the mountain town of Souk al-Gharb, which controls access to Jemayel's presidential palace above Beirut.



The scene after a car bomb explosion next to the Phalangist office in Beirut's business district yesterday. (Reuters telephoto)

Israel Arabs express backing
for Moslems on Temple Mount

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Representatives of the country's Arab local councils yesterday visited the Temple Mount and met the mufti of Jerusalem, Sheikh Sa'ad al-Din el-Alami, to express their solidarity with him in the face of what they described as the provocations of the last fortnight.

Tark Abdelhy, head of the Tira local council and leader of the group, told *The Jerusalem Post* that they had gone to the Mount both as Moslems and as representatives of Israel's Arab population. El-Alami had told them that he did not object to visits by Knesset members, but did object to non-Moslems praying on the site.

Earlier, the group met Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz. In addition to discussing the deficits of Arab

local councils with him, they also warned that the actions and declarations of people such as MK Dov Shilansky and former chief rabbi Shlomo Goren could drag the country into conflict.

The problem was not religious, but political, they maintained. Cabinet secretary Yossi Beilin, and the Prime Minister's Adviser on Diaspora Affairs, Avraham Burg, also visited the Temple Mount yesterday. Their pre-arranged visit included Solomon's Stables, the site of serious confrontations during the MKs' visits. Beilin and Burg did not meet with any member of the Moslem Supreme Council.

In the past fortnight, Shilansky has twice led a delegation of the Knesset Interior Committee, which he chairs, onto the Temple Mount.

Spanish PM said likely
to visit here this year

By BENNY MORRIS
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
MADRID. — Reports circulated here yesterday that Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez has accepted an invitation from Prime Minister Peres, extended at their meeting in The Hague on Sunday, and will visit Israel during the second half of this year.

The report was published yesterday in the Catholic daily *Ya*, whose correspondent said the information came from sources in Gonzalez's entourage in The Hague. Israel's head of mission in Madrid, Shmuel Hadas, could not confirm the report.

Hadas said the diplomatic process of establishing ties is gathering momentum. Israel has already informed the Spanish government about the establishment of its embassy in Madrid. A similar Spanish notification to Israel is expected in the coming days.

Ambassadors will then be accredited to both capitals, with Hadas taking up his official appointment as

ambassador to Spain in about a fortnight.

Hadas, who has been head of mission in Madrid for the past four years, is expected to serve as ambassador for a little over a year.

The Spanish candidate for ambassador to Tel Aviv has not been named, but it is understood that he will be a senior career diplomat, as the Spaniards attribute "great importance" to the posting, sources said here.

Hadas believes that emphasis will be placed in the coming months on the development of economic ties between the two countries. It is understood that just before Friday's announcement of the establishment of relations, the Speaker of the Cortes (parliament) extended an official invitation to the members of the Knesset Economics Committee to come to Spain — in reciprocation of a visit to Israel some 18 months ago by members of the Cortes agriculture committee.

(Continued on back page)

Peres waiting
for Hussein's
latest ideas
PM to meet Murphy in London

By JERRY LEWIS
in London
and Agencies
Prime Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday that he is waiting to hear King Hussein's latest ideas about advancing peace talks from U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy in London today.

Peres was speaking at a press conference in The Hague, the first stop on his European tour. He was scheduled to arrive in London late last night for official meetings with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as well as a session with the American diplomat.

Israel is expecting Jordanian answers to two questions: How to convene an international forum for peace talks? And what Palestinian representation will there be in the negotiations?

Peres discussed these points with Murphy on Sunday, he told reporters in The Hague. "We shall meet again [today] to see if there is any progress."

Asked if Murphy had seen the Jordanian king in London in the interim, Peres gave no answer. Hussein left London a few hours before Peres's scheduled arrival yesterday and returned to Amman.

Peres also met with Murphy in The Hague on Monday.

Peres said it was now "up to Jordan" to produce proposals, adding that he was optimistic about achieving peace.

Asked about a possible Soviet role in the forum, the prime minister said Moscow should first establish diplomatic relations with Israel and relax restrictions on Jewish emigration, but he made it clear that the second condition had priority.

In an interview on the American television network CBS from The Hague, Peres said, "I do believe that maybe Jordan is coming to terms with the real situation."

That situation, he said, was that PLO leader Yasser Arafat would not meet Israel's condition for PLO participation in talks — that the PLO renounce terrorism and recognize and negotiate directly with Israel.

In the interview on the CBS Morning Show, Peres said, "We shall meet again [today] to see if there is any progress."

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Murphy reports please Washington

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
WASHINGTON. — The Reagan administration has been encouraged by initial reports from Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Richard Murphy on prospects for convening an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Murphy, who has met recently with King Hussein in London, and with Prime Minister Peres in The Hague, is said to be narrowing their differences on the exact format of any international conference and on the question of Palestinian representation.

But U.S. officials insisted that serious problems remain unresolved.

U.S. officials insist that any international conference that may be convened should lead quickly to direct peace talks between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But the question of PLO involvement was still unresolved, the Americans said.

The *New York Times* yesterday reported that Washington was seeking to ensure that two conditions be met in advance of any international meeting — that its purpose be to allow direct peace talks to start promptly between Israel and the Arabs, and that the conference "as a whole not have the power to interfere with or overrule any decisions that might be reached in the direct talks."

These conditions were also being made by Israel.

Security Council hears complaint on MKs' visit

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters). — Saudi Arabia accused Israel of aggression against one of Islam's most holy shrines, the Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem, and warned of "the wrath of hundreds of millions of Moslems."

The Saudi delegate was speaking to the Security Council in support of a resolution by Morocco to consider "the serious threat to international peace and security" created by the

recent visit of Knesset members to the Temple Mount.

In Marrakesh, Morocco, the meeting of the Al-Quds (Jerusalem) committee, set up by the 46-member Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), was called to discuss how to counter alleged Israeli actions against the mosque.

The meeting was called at short notice by King Hassan of Morocco at the request of PLO chief Yasser Arafat, who attended the meeting.

Haifa shipyard flareup due
as workers to get locked out

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

HAIFA. — Serious trouble is expected at the Israel Shipyards this morning when the workers find themselves locked out. Yesterday the receiver for the shipyards, Amram Blum, obtained an order from the Jerusalem District Court to put the 650 yard employees on unpaid leave.

The receiver, who was appointed at the government's request last week, told the court that the yard was losing an "intolerable" \$600,000 monthly, and he needed time to plan future action. The enterprise, which is owned by the government, lost millions of dollars in the last two years.

The yard workers, who have in the

past staged violent demonstrations to secure their salaries, are expected not to take the surprise development lying down. Yesterday, they spilled out of the yard in a spontaneous demonstration because the management was unable to pay them an advance of NIS 125 that was due on their January salaries. The workers attempted to block an intersection near the yard and only retreated after a large police contingent arrived at the site. A small force of police stayed on the premises.

The Haifa Labour Council secretary, Moshe Werthan, last night pledged the council's backing for the workers' refusal to go on unpaid leave, and called on the government to stop treating them in such a "scandalous" way.

Nobleman was
Franco's envoy

A Spanish nobleman, the Duke of Terra Nova, travelled to Israel in 1949 with a secret offer of diplomatic ties from dictator Francisco Franco, the Foreign Ministry reported yesterday.

Franco's offer was disclosed last week by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir when Spain and Israel established diplomatic relations for the first time.

However, a former director-general of the ministry, Gideon Rafael, challenged Shamir's account, prompting the ministry to identify Terra Nova.

The ministry said Terra Nova, who served as Spanish consul-general to Jerusalem during the last

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

Aden clashes renewed

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP). — Fighting broke out anew in the South Yemeni capital of Aden yesterday between rival Marxist factions, as the struggle for supremacy entered its second week, Arab and Western diplomatic sources reported.

The Sanaa-based diplomats said Soviet and North Yemeni efforts to arrange a cease-fire were meanwhile continuing.

(See story — Page 4)

Late Chief Rabbi allowed sale of real estate to Moslems
Rabbi Eliahu's ban contradicts view by Herzog

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Last week's ruling by Sephardi Chief Rabbi Mordechai Elihu that selling or letting property in Israel to a non-Jew is forbidden by halacha stands diametrically opposed to the view of the late chief rabbi Yitzhak Isaac Halevy Herzog.

In a treatise on "The Rights of Minorities in a Jewish State According to Halacha," Herzog wrote before his death in 1959:

"What is the status of the Arabs, members of the Islamic faith, who live among us here? Can they be considered *gerim toshavim* (partial proselytes who renounce Judaism but do not accept the whole of Judaism)?"

"That Moslems are not idolaters has been made quite clear by Maimonides. The only question is, may we view them as *gerim toshavim*, given that they observe the Seven Noahide Laws, and even more, but have never formally declared their adherence to them before an ordained Jewish religious court? In addition to the Noahide Laws, which they keep, our Moslem

neighbours practise philanthropy and worship the one and only Almighty."

(The seven commandments "of the children of Noah," which according to Judaism apply to all people, prohibit idolatry, blasphemy, bloodshed, sexual sins, theft and eating from a living animal, and require the establishment of a legal system.)

"Two pillars of halacha — Rabbi Avraham Ben David of Posquieres and Yosef Caro, author of the *Shulhan Aruch* — agree that a gentile, who does not practise idolatry may not be deprived from residing permanently in the Land of Israel, even if he has not declared his regard for the Noahide Laws before a religious court. What is more, my predecessor, chief rabbi Avraham Yitzhak Kook, has definitively ruled that in our times the status of *gerim toshavim* applies even without a religious court declaration in the case of an entire people or nation accepting the Seven Noahide Laws."

On the specific question of land sales to non-Jews, Rabbi Herzog cited the two scriptural references

most quoted by critics of such transactions: Deuteronomy 7:2, which a Talmudic Midrash interprets as "Do not give them [gentiles] permanent residence rights," and Leviticus 25:23 ("And the land shall not be sold in permanence"), which is interpreted by Nahmanides as forbidding the sale of land to an idolater, since such a purchaser is not required to relinquish the property in the jubilee year.

Herzog wrote: "It is clear that the prohibition against land sales does not apply to *gerim toshavim*, though it is not altogether clear whether it applies to a non-Jew who does not practise idolatry but has not been given the title of *ger toshav*."

However, Rabbi Kook, in his volume of responsa *Mishpat Kohan*, says that the ban on land sales to non-Jews does not apply to Arab Moslems despite the fact that they have not formally declared their adherence to the Noahide Laws before a *bet din* — the reason being that they are part of a nation that does not worship idols. And I agree with that view.

"Naturally, my view refers to indi-

vidual sales of real property to non-Jews. However, if it becomes apparent that the purchase is part of a master plan to sunder land in this country from Jewish national ownership, then the state is obligated to enact special restrictions."

"As for the ban on selling land for permanent ownership, this of course applies to *gerim toshavim* as well as to other non-Jews, since *gerim toshavim*, too, are not obligated to relinquish their real property in the jubilee year. However, beside the fact that this prohibition does not apply now, when the jubilee year laws are in abeyance, there is a ready solution to this question in our times. Let the state pass a law, or an amendment to an existing law, that would make land sales in permanence impossible — even by a Jew to a Jew. Instead, land might be sold for very long terms. This would not only solve this problem but also the Talmudic-Midrashic ban against granting gentiles the right of permanent residence among us."

Rabbi Herzog's treatise appears in the halacha section of this year's *Shana B'shana* almanac.

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	21.1.86	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	6-10	5	11	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	2-6	1	11	Cloudy
BURNOUS AIRS	14-17	12	19	Clear
CHICAGO	-3-7	-12	3	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	9-12	3	17	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	1-4	-1	5	Cloudy
GENEVA	1-4	-1	5	Cloudy
HELSINKI	-1-4	-10	4	Cloudy
HONG KONG	17-21	17	21	Clear
JERUSALEM	18-20	18	20	Clear
LONDON	10-15	10	15	Clear
MADRID	7-10	7	10	Cloudy
MONTREAL	1-4	-1	5	Cloudy
NEW YORK	3-7	-1	11	Cloudy
OSLO	-1-4	-10	4	Cloudy
PARIS	4-7	1	10	Cloudy
RIO DE JANEIRO	22-23	22	23	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	22-23	22	23	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	2-5	-1	4	Cloudy
TOKYO	4-9	3	12	Cloudy
TORONTO	-1-4	-10	4	Cloudy
VIENNA	4-7	1	10	Cloudy
ZURICH	1-4	-1	5	Cloudy

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy, with chance of rain especially in the North.

	Yesterday's	Today's	Max
Jerusalem	52	0-12	10
Golan	62	1-11	9
Nabatieh	-	-	-
Safed	-	-	-
Haifa Port	58	10-16	15
Tiberias	-	-	-
Nazareth	-	-	-
Afula	53	0-16	14
Shomron	50	2-16	14
Tel Aviv	53	7-16	15
B-G Airport	52	5-16	15
Jericho	33	4-20	18
Caes	52	8-16	15
Beersheba	44	3-16	15
Eilat	34	9-20	19

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Israel-German Chamber of Commerce yesterday gave a reception at the Carlton Hotel for the new German Ambassador, Wilhelm Haas.

Rotarian Prof. Shalom Sarel will speak on "How China Looks Today" at the weekly meeting of the Jerusalem Rotary Club at 1 p.m. in the YMCA today.

Pinhas Landau, of *The Jerusalem Post*, will be the guest speaker at the weekly meeting of the Haifa Rotary Club in the Nof Hotel at 1 p.m. today.

The scoliosis photography unit in memory of Dr. Yehudit Span-Etzion was dedicated yesterday at the Alyn Hospital in the presence of family and friends.

ARRIVALS

Sir Charles Groves, as guest of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, to conduct two concerts at the Jerusalem Theatre today and tomorrow.

Navon meets Jewish, Arab pupils

By LORA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEERSHEBA. - Education Minister Yitzhak Navon yesterday inspected two programmes in the Negev in which he is particularly interested: Arab-Jewish get-togethers, and technological training for high school pupils.

Navon sat in on a meeting between fifth graders at the Tel Sheva Beduin school near here and fifth graders from the Nitzan school in Beersheba. "The only thing on the agenda is an exchange of information about each other's life and cultures," an Education Ministry spokesman told *The Jerusalem Post* during the visit.

But Navon noted an inherent imbalance, since the Beduin children learn Hebrew while the Jewish ones don't learn Arabic. The children agreed and expressed a desire to learn Arabic as part of their curriculum.

The minister then visited Israel's first and largest Central Technological Laboratories, located here and serving 26 high schools. Some 1,000 pupils from all the schools in the area - religious, secular and Beduin - study subjects like mechanics and robotics at the centre.

HOME NEWS

45-day 'reprieve' in dispute with nurses

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Hospitals and clinics operated normally yesterday following the last-minute cancellation of a planned strike by the country's 20,000 nurses.

The strike was called off at 3 a.m. yesterday, after the Nurses' Union agreed to the same proposal they had been offered on Monday morning by the Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee. According to the agreement, which was ruled to be legally binding by the Jerusalem District Labour Court, the employers, the nurses and the government will continue negotiations for 45 days. If no agreement on salaries and working conditions is reached by then, the dispute will go to arbitration.

"We had serious doubts," explained union head Kerem Padan, when asked why the union had not called off the strike earlier. "We were worried not so much about the content of the agreement, but about the framework."

There was much shouting at the labour court after midnight as some nurses demanded that the strike go ahead and others called for a compromise. "Some wanted the labour court to hand us a cheque for a wage increase," said Padan.

Some of the nurses resolved to go to work in premature-baby wards and operating rooms despite the strike. "out of concern for the patients," Padan said. "We received only part of what we wanted," she added.

The agreement, pushed through skillfully by Deputy Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino, bases the nurses' demands on the 1979 government decision that nursing is a "high priority" profession.

The agreement also stipulates that if either side feels, after a few days or weeks, that the other side is not forthcoming in the negotiations and only wants to "waste time" during the 45-day period, it may demand to go to arbitration for a ruling on the case within 30 days.

In any case, the nurses will not get any salary increases until April, when the wage freeze package ends. Arbeli-Almoslino personally committed herself to fighting on behalf of the nurses for increased job slots in hospitals.

Moda'i says 'no' to aid for development towns

By ROY ISACOWITZ
and TSIPPI KUPER

Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i adopted a tight-fisted and hard-headed stance yesterday when facing down demands by 34 heads of development towns for financial assistance. The mayors and council heads have again threatened to strike their services and demonstrate on Sunday outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem if the Treasury does not give them the \$34 million it has promised.

Moda'i said that, while he commiserated with their problems, he would not print money for them, and added that they should explore ways of reallocating finances within the structure of the new budget.

The meeting, which took place within the context of the coalition executive, decided on the establishment of a joint team of development town representatives, the coalition and the Interior Ministry, to draw up recommendations for Moda'i.

Earlier, Industry and Trade Ministry Director-General Yehoshua Forer presented the Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee with plans that would create some 4,000 jobs in the development towns. He said investment in approved industries in these towns in 1986 would total \$60m., of which \$35m. is to come from government grants.

Committee chairwoman Ora Namir later told *The Jerusalem Post* she was not optimistic about fulfillment of the programme. "We have seen so many plans and nothing has come of them," she said. And MK Ran Cohen said that even if the plans materialized, they would not reduce unemployment when some 10,000 soldiers from development towns were demobilized each year.

A recent employment service report shows that over a quarter of the country's unemployed live in development towns, although their residents comprise only 10 per cent of the total population.

In Beit She'an, Sderot and Dimona, the towns most severely affected, unemployment grew by over 50 per cent during 1985, according to the report, with 12.5 per cent of the Beit She'an work force jobless during December, and 8.5 per cent unemployed in Sderot.

Perez Amir, of Sderot, warned that he and his colleagues would not be able to restrain the mounting anger of the development town residents for much longer.

Menachem Ariav, of Upper Nazareth, added that were demonstrations against the government's economic policies to begin, they would be joined by Arabs from Nazareth and would soon acquire "an anti-Zionist colour."

Phone users are to be billed every 2 months, says Bezek

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Bezek will soon be sending phone bills once every two months, instead of every month, it was announced yesterday.

The decision was taken by the directorate of the public telecommunications company following a suggestion by Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein.

Phone bills had been sent every two months to subscribers for many years. However, with the hyperinflation of the early 1980s, the phone company decided to bill on a monthly basis so that payments for services wouldn't be eroded.

Bills that fall below an as-yet unstated figure (including most household bills) will be billed bi-monthly within four to six months, after computers are reprogrammed.

Rubinstein described at a press conference in Jerusalem's Beit Agon the "impressive accomplishments" of Bezek in 1985 - the first year that it existed as an entity independent of the government's Communications Ministry.

Rubinstein said he has been urging Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i to require payment of value added tax only once in two months, rather than monthly, to save on administrative and computer costs.

Vandalism of public phones has "decreased drastically" during the past year, the minister said.

He credited the significant increase in public phones, the siting of the booths in lighted and much-frequented areas, and the Bezek public service announcements for the decline in vandalism.

Having a phone is a "citizen's right," but there are from 160,000 to 190,000 still waiting for phones, he said.



This push-button telephone will soon be Bezek's standard model, replacing the round-dial phone issued to the company's subscribers till now. (Dan Landau)

Installations by Bezek have increased, with 45 per cent more lines than the previous year added last year. By 1987, no one who has been waiting for over four years for a phone will be without one. And in many areas (except the Dan region), there will be almost no waiting at all next year.

Bezek has almost met its commitment to repair phone lines within six days of receiving a complaint. Of 3,000 to 4,000 complaints a day, 80 breakdowns are not fixed within six days.

Zvi Amid, Bezek's director-general, said public phones from which people can call long-distance and collect calls to other countries will be installed in nearly every town.

A Bezek push-button phone, manufactured by Tadiran and Elisra, will be the standard issue starting in April.

KNESSET NEWS

ASHER WALLFISH

Israel's Lavi warplane will cost \$2.5 billion to develop, instead of the \$700m. originally envisaged, Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) yesterday wrote to Labour's Abba Eban, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee. Each Lavi will cost \$35m., making it the most expensive plane of its kind in the world, and the Israel Air Force will get its first Lavi only in 1995, instead of 1990. But the Lavi will be obsolete by 1995, the letter went on, describing the project as "an adventure motivated solely by prestige considerations."

The state comptroller has sent the attorney-general material about the Talmud Tora of the Sadigora Hassidim in Jerusalem, suggesting that the institution committed forgery in order to get extra allocations from the Education Ministry, the State Control Committee was told yesterday.

Mordechai Virshubski (Shinui) yesterday persuaded the Law Committee to hold a debate on the Ashkelon Religious Council's threat to withdraw kashrut certificates from local hotels which advertised New Year's Eve parties.

Interior Committee chairman Dov Shilansky (Likud), who led a committee tour of Ma'asiyahu Prison yesterday, said that if the prison-long cleaning campaign that preceded the parliamentary visit managed to rid the jail of only a small part of the filth clogging it, the visit was worthwhile.

Elihu Spieser (Labour), chairman of the Knesset Economic Committee, warned that official receivers appointed by the courts to bankrupt firms are more about earning astronomical fees than about the future of the firms, or the job prospects of the employees.

Chaika Grossman (Mapam) wrote Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir yesterday, asking him to check whether political bribery was involved in Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon's granting of licences to import steel to two dealers who had not handled the metal before. The two subsequently offered the licences to a Nazareth dealer for \$100,000, after failing to get \$150,000 from them at Rehovot dealer.

Shevah Weiss (Labour), yesterday wrote Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i that the bill for pensions to Righteous Gentiles who risked their lives to save Jews from the Nazis stipulates pension linkage to their incomes. "This is hard-hearted pettiness, especially as only about 20 pensions are involved," Weiss wrote.

Ran Cohen (Citizens Rights Movement) yesterday asked Agriculture Minister Aryeh Nehamkin to revoke the dismissal of Elihu Amar, an inspector in the Israel Lands Administration, who cracked a corruption racket in the Haifa area and was victimized by the staff committee. Cohen reminded Nehamkin that an amendment to the State Comptroller's Law passed some years ago makes it an offence to fire a person who complains about corruption.

NOBLEMAN

(Continued from Page One)

ment to establish relations. David Ben-Gurion's alleged re-deds of the British Mandate, returned on an unofficial mission with Franco's offer.

Rafael told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that the ministry statement confirms that no official presentation was made by the Franco government. As the statement says, the former Spanish consul-general approached the Israel government unofficially and there is no documentary proof of any authoritative proposal by the Franco govern-

ment to establish relations. David Ben-Gurion's alleged re-deds of the British Mandate, returned on an unofficial mission with Franco's offer.

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Henry Kissinger and Mayor Teddy Kollek leaving the Western Wall yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Labour's economic team to report on state budget

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Post Political Reporter

Splits appeared in the Labour Party's Knesset caucus yesterday when the eight-person economic team discussed the party's opposition to the new state budget. The team is scheduled to make a preliminary report to the full caucus today.

Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi and Deputy Finance Minister Adi Amori adamantly opposed the proposals by MKs Rafi Edri and Haim Ramon for the imposition of a capital gains tax, arguing that such a tax would precipitate a flight of capital from the country.

The other MKs on the team - Uzi Baran, Avraham Katz-Oz, and Ora Namir - supported the call for such a tax. There were also differences of opinion over Labour's opposition to the education levy and doctors' consultancy fees, with Amori expressing strong support for the government's policies.

Several leading Labour figures still hope the budget can provide the grounds for bringing down the gov-

ernment and avoiding rotation, an approach which puts them at loggerheads with Prime Minister Peres.

One MK estimated Labour's opposition to the budget was "50 per cent political and 50 per cent based on the issues."

Aryeh Rubinstein adds:

Liberal MK Uriel Lynn said in yesterday's budget debate that we don't really have a budget problem, we have an administrative problem. "We could have a better education system, for instance, without any budgetary increase, by increasing the number of external students," he said.

Haim Ramon (Alignment) had some praise for the government's economic achievements so far, but he said that the burden is not being shared equally.

There was once a tax on stock market transactions and it should be revived. A 2 per cent tax on turnover would yield \$30-\$40 million a year, he said. And a tax on the purchase of luxury flats would yield \$10m.

Soldier attacked in Old City

Jerusalem Post Reporter

A reserve soldier was attacked last night by three knife-wielding Arab brothers in Jerusalem's Old City. The soldier, off-duty and alone at the time, fought off his attackers and was not harmed.

Police detectives near the scene quickly apprehended the brothers, aged 19-25, who are from the Shuafat refugee camp. They own a cassette stand in the Old City.

They are being held at the Kishle lock-up in the Old City and are to be brought before the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on Friday for extension of their remand.

Moda'i discloses emergency scheme

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - A secret emergency programme to provide every Israeli with minimum food and energy resources in case of economic collapse was drawn up at the same time as the current economic recovery programme, Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i revealed last night.

Speaking to the World Wizo Conference at the Tel Aviv Hilton, the

minister said there had been no way of knowing when the "run on the bank" would start - and if it had started, there would have been no way of stopping it.

A year ago he had told another Wizo gathering that economic recovery would take two years. "I won't take that back, but I'm sorry now I didn't say three," he said. He added that we have a little more than a year to go before we "emerge from the tunnel."

El Al-UK row seems over as ruffled feathers smoothed

By JERRY LEWIS
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. - El Al and the Department of Transport appear to have reached a compromise over new security measures at Manchester Airport. Subject to final approval by El Al officials due to visit the airport today, the regular weekly flights to Manchester will resume next Monday after a one week suspension.

Transport Minister Michael Spicer visited Manchester yesterday to resolve the dispute, which arose last Thursday when he ordered that the airline move its check-in desk from the concourse it had shared with other international carriers to a screened-off area normally used for group departures.

El Al complained that its passengers were being "singled out." But British Airways staff who work at adjoining desks had twice walked out in protest at what they considered a risk to their safety by being so near El Al passengers at departure time.

Spicer says that El Al passengers will take their luggage to the boarding gate, where check-in formalities will be completed, a system similar to that introduced this week at Heathrow Airport.

El Al's check-in facilities there were transferred from Terminal 3 to Terminal 1 on the minister's direction, after he had expressed concern that their passengers could be subject to attacks similar to those at Rome and Vienna last month.

El Al spokesman Nahman Kli-

man told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that, while he could not confirm the airline's acceptance of the new arrangements at Manchester, he was optimistic that they would be cleared when company officials had examined the proposed solution.

A department of Transport official told *The Post* that, while no other airlines had been subjected to ministerial directives over security matters, El Al passengers were in the "highest risk" category.

Kissinger: I'll try to help MIAs

By PATRICIA GOLAN

Former U.S. secretary of State Henry Kissinger met in Jerusalem yesterday with family members of the four Israeli soldiers missing since the Lebanon War. "We knock on every door, and Kissinger is very influential," said Yona Baumei, father of Zecharya Baumei who, together with Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz - has been missing since the battle of Sultan Yacoub in 1982.

The father and brothers of Druse soldier Samir Assad, who disappeared near Sidon in 1983, were also present at yesterday's meeting at the King David Hotel. Baumei said Kissinger listened sympathetically but was "non-committal." Israel Television reported last night that Kissinger promised the family members he would do his best to help them. Representatives of the four families are now in Holland seeking information on the missing men.

Chief of General Staff Moshe Levy, referring to the missing soldiers, yesterday said that "We are constantly attending to these four, in various areas, and not necessarily on the day that developments are reported in the media."

Speaking at Kiryat Ata, he stressed that Israel's enemies capitalize on the high value this country places on the lives of its soldiers, and that efforts to free them must therefore proceed with caution.

In the afternoon Kissinger and his wife Nancy were given a tour of Jerusalem's Old City by Mayor Teddy Kollek. Kissinger visited the Old City 10 years ago as secretary of state, but asked to return this time at a slower pace.

The internationally known statesman and historian was clearly fascinated by what he saw, calling Kollek a "marvellous guide."

Kissinger visited the Temple Mount, entering Al Aksa and the Dome of the Rock. Asked to comment on his impressions in light of the Islamic Conference Organization's meeting yesterday to discuss ways of "countering Israeli aggression" on the Temple Mount, Kissinger said he didn't believe the area "should be a focus of international controversy." He would not elaborate, protesting that "Today I am a tourist."

APPOINTMENT. - Dan Holtzman, managing director of the Netiv Ayalon company, has been appointed by Transport Minister Haim Corfu to head the road safety administration. Holtzman succeeds Moshe Amirav, whose term ends on January 31.

LOTTO. - In yesterday's national lottery drawing, the following numbers were picked: 9, 18, 22, 25, 29, 35, and the additional number, 5.

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Jockeying for Herut crown

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Correspondent
TEL AVIV. — The action of the Herut convention cliff-hanger moves now to behind-the-scenes bargaining sessions in which the convention date will be fixed — perhaps finally this time.

But, since the situation within the party is extremely fluid and alliances tend to be ad hoc affairs, sometimes lasting only a few hours, no reliable estimate of a convention date can be made.

All one can do is examine the aims and objectives of the various sides for some indication of the struggle in the coming fortnight, during which, according to Monday's central committee decision, an agreed proposal must be marked out.

It is axiomatic in Herut that the longer the convention is postponed, the happier Vice Premier Shamir's supporters will be. For the closer the convention is to the rotation date, when Shamir is scheduled to succeed Premier Peres, the less vulnerable will his leadership position be within the party and the less encouragement will there be for Labour to renege on the agreement. This is the theory steadfastly held to by Shamir's fiercest rivals in David Levy's camp.

And indeed, the present situation is pretty comfortable for Shamir. The central committee, elected at the last Herut convention in 1979, is one on which Shamir can usually count for a majority, which is precisely why Levy has been clamouring for a convention. For Levy maintains that the balance of power in the central committee does not represent the Herut Movement of today. He wants new delegates to the convention to elect a new central committee, in which, he believes, his position would be improved.

The 1,000-member central committee is the party's most powerful

forum, being the body that elects the leader and the list of candidates for the next general election.

How, then, can one explain Levy's sudden about-turn, and his backing of a Shamir proposal to postpone the convention? The move seems all the more paradoxical against the background of Levy's staunch opposition to the recent request of the party's internal elections organizers that they be granted a delay of a few days in the convention schedule to rid the voters' rolls of questionable names.

Quite clearly, Levy was about to suffer a resounding defeat at Shamir's hands. It is widely assumed in Herut that Levy would have lost a central committee showdown in which Shamir was set to ram through a proposal to co-opt 400 extra delegates to the convention to represent various sectors in the party. And with that victory, Shamir would have had the convention sewn up. But it might have been a Pyrrhic victory, because Levy's supporters would certainly have produced a row that would have left only the Labour Party happy, and irreparably damaged Herut's image.

It was, therefore, preferable for both sides to take up the cause of peace and consultation, rather than risk defeat or a bad press.

But what about Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon? Appearing to be allied with each side for a while, Sharon has been playing a curious game recently. At one point he said that even if the rotation agreement were not implemented, Shamir would still be his candidate for premier. But, simultaneously, he sided with Levy against Shamir's proposal to co-opt additional convention delegates. At Monday's central committee meeting, Sharon fought hard against both Levy and Shamir, at least ensuring that postponement of the pre-convention internal party elections be limited to

three weeks. Sharon's objectives, however, are not too difficult to understand. It is in his best interest to have Shamir at the helm, for that leaves open to him the opportunity of seeking the number one position when Shamir steps down. Should a younger man, such as Levy, gain the ascendancy now, Sharon's hopes, if not dashed entirely, would have to be frozen for a long time.

Also, Sharon needs to remind Levy from time to time that he too could use Sharon's help. In other words, Sharon wants to safeguard his third-force status and to do this he needs to engineer a situation in which he and his allies, such as Yoram Aridor, are the pivotal group in any internal party configuration.

Thus, for Sharon, an early convention is essential, for it would have both sides courting him.

The only certainty in Herut now is that the convention will not open on February 16. From here on, anything is possible. The Levy supporters openly say that they will not agree to too long a delay. They envisage a few weeks at the most.

The Shamir side privately says that, with the internal, wrenching conflict the convention is sure to bring, the gathering is just about the worst thing that could happen to the party, especially with Labour on the watch for any sign of a rift in Herut. That would be the last nail in the rotation agreement's coffin, Shamir's side believes. As the Shamir supporters have it, the convention should be postponed for a year, but even they doubt that they can win so long a delay. A couple of months would also suit them, they admit.

It is the difference between the couple of weeks mentioned by Levy, and the couple of months that would satisfy Shamir, that will be the focus of the fight in the coming fortnight.

Why Moslem couples marry twice

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter
For the Moslems of East Jerusalem, it is a matter of course to marry twice, both times to the same woman.

The one wedding takes place in an East Jerusalem court which is under Jordanian jurisdiction, and the other in the Sha'riya Court of Jaffa, which has jurisdiction over Jerusalem and is recognized by the State of Israel.

Dr. Subhi Abu-Ghosh, director of the Sha'riya — Moslem religious — courts in Israel told *The Jerusalem Post* that similar parallel procedures are followed with regard to divorces, the registration of births, and wills. Those who go through the double forms are not necessarily weakly or exceptional in any way, but ordinary people who want their affairs to be in order.

Abu Ghosh explained that, after 1967, the Sha'riya Court in East

Jerusalem, which has existed for hundreds of years and today functions under the jurisdiction of the Jordanian government, was not abolished. But, at the same time, its decisions are not recognized by the Israeli authorities.

Thus a marriage certificate issued by the East Jerusalem court will not help the bearer change his or her status to "married" on an Israeli identity card or be recognized as married by, say, the National Insurance Institute. On the other hand, East Jerusalemites who often travel to Jordan and have business dealings there, are not recognized as married if they have only an Israeli document to prove it.

Abu Ghosh also noted that there is a certain discrimination in the law which permits religious courts to allow a man to take a second wife. Rabbinical courts may allow such a marriage at their discretion, with the

approval of the chief rabbis, but non-Jewish religious courts may only allow such a marriage in two specific cases: if the wife is mentally ill, or if she has been missing for at least seven years.

There are men who would like to have a second wife to take care of an incapacitated first wife whom they do not want to divorce. This is prohibited by law.

The High Court of Justice, in a decision a few years ago, noted the discriminatory nature of the law and called upon the Knesset to change it; but so far nothing has been done.

At present, there are Sha'riya courts in Acre, Haifa, Nazareth, Jaffa, Beersheba, and Taiba. Each of these district courts has one kadi, or judge, whereas rabbinical courts have three dayanim. However, there is a Sha'riya appeals court in Jerusalem on which three kadis sit.

New plant is developed for export

By LIORA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter
BEERSHEBA. — After eight years of research, Israeli scientists have developed the multi-coloured flowering branches of the eucalyptus as a new export to European flower markets.

"We've changed the purpose of planting these trees, which are hardy and can withstand desert heat and salinity, from functional to decorative," Yossi Ben-Dov told *The Jerusalem Post*. Ben-Dov heads the team working on the introduction of new plants to arid zones at the Institute for Applied Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

This winter, Israel has exported

"hundreds of thousands" of flowering eucalyptus branches to Europe, at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$1.25 per branch.

There are 50 dunams of eucalyptus trees grown for flowers all over the country, with another 150 dunams due to be added next year, Ben-Dov said. The new plantings are a joint venture of the flower growers' association and the Agriculture Ministry. Four dunams have been planted at Ein Hazeva in the Arava, which will begin marketing next season.

The tree, first introduced here at the turn of the century to help drain swamps, was later used as a shade-tree along the roads. Today, farmers

from Australia, where the first seeds came from, visit Israel in growing numbers to learn about the many uses of the tree, notes Ben-Dov. "We are serious pioneers in this field," he says, adding that there are 500 varieties of eucalyptus, including some 250 hybrids. Many have very beautiful, multi-coloured flowers that are a novelty on the European markets.

Ben-Dov notes that the eucalyptus requires no special care and that so far there appear to be no parasites that hamper its growth. "But once we begin to grow commercial quantities, the problems won't be far behind," he cautions.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Post Office not liable for that missing cheque

Jerusalem Post Staff
Planning to send a cheque for NIS 1 million by registered mail? Or a telegram closing a big business deal? You should know that the Post Office has virtually no liability if the cheque or telegram do not reach their destination.

Hadassah Kammer of Bnei Brak found this out when she sued the Communications Ministry for NIS 145 in the Tel Aviv Small Claims Court, arguing that the Post Office had failed to deliver a registered letter and a telegram she had sent.

The judge ruled that, according to postal regulations, the ministry is liable for only a fixed sum — now NIS 8 — if it does not deliver a registered letter. And it has no liability at all if a telegram is not delivered.

People who send registered letters or telegrams can do nothing but hope they are delivered, the judge said.

But he did order the ministry to pay Kammer NIS 100 for court costs.

Mormons to Eban: We won't proselytize

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter
The president of the Mormon church, Ezra Taft Benson, has written to MK Abba Eban assuring him that the Brigham Young University centre being built on Mt. Scopus will not be used for missionary activity.

Eban earlier cabled Benson, seeking an "assurance that Brigham Young University would totally abstain from missionary activity designed to persuade Jews to exchange their own faith for another."

In his reply, Benson notes that "officials of the university who are responsible for the construction and operation of the Jerusalem Centre for Near Eastern Studies have given assurances, time and again, both orally and in writing, that this facility will not be used for proselytizing."

5 held on drug charges

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Five men were arrested and a large quantity of dangerous drugs was impounded in three separate raids by the police drug squad on Monday.

In Pardess Katz, two men were found in possession of 115 grams of cocaine, 12.89 grams of opium, and 2 grams of heroin. In Haifa, the third man in a drug smuggling ring was caught. He is suspected of having illegally imported 500 grams of heroin. And in Tel Aviv, two brothers were arrested in possession of 18 heroin doses and a gram of hashish.

Judaism yes, coercion no

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Most Israelis would like to learn more about Judaism in mixed religious-secular groups, but not in an environment where there is pressure to become more religious, according to a survey by Gesher, a movement "to form a tolerant Jewish society." The 64 per cent who held this view included 53 per cent of those defining themselves as secular, 76 per cent of the "traditional," and 80 per cent of those who considered themselves religious.

Chagall lithograph stolen

A lithograph by Marc Chagall, worth thousands of dollars, has been stolen from an exhibition of his work at the Alliance Française cultural centre in Jerusalem. It was reported yesterday.

The lithograph, "Nude and a Basket of Flowers," was stolen on Saturday. The thief broke a window, reached in and took the work of art off the wall. (Itim)

Histadrut fund wants Shiff firm liquidated

TEL AVIV (Itim). — The Histadrut's Mivtahim fund has asked the district court here to liquidate the Six Stars Company, which is owned by hotelier Haim Shiff whose business empire is in severe financial straits.

Mivtahim claims that Shiff owes it NIS 162,152, up to last November 30, plus interest and arrears fines for back contributions to the pension and further training funds of the 250 employees of his Diplomat Hotel in Tel Aviv.

The company says that Shiff sent it a cheque last December, but the cheque was not honoured.

The staff at the Diplomat have been deprived of their pension rights since last March, Mivtahim says. It has asked the court either to wind up the Six Stars company, whose registered office is in the Diplomat, or to take any other appropriate action. No date has yet been set for hearings which will be held before Judge Eliahu Winograd.

Synagogue vandalized

RA'ANANA (Itim). — Vandals broke into a synagogue in the Po'alim neighbourhood here and threw the Tora scrolls on the floor, tore up prayerbooks and emptied bottles of liquor, one of the officials of the synagogue discovered yesterday.

The synagogue is used only for Sabbath services, and it is not clear when it was vandalized.

The letters "PLO" were painted on the building but police said their investigation is proceeding in a number of directions.

2 found dead in north

KIRYAT SHMONA. — The bodies of two missing men were found in this region yesterday. Boaz (Maurice) Goldman, a 68-year-old resident of Moshav Amirim who disappeared from his home last week, was found dead in Wadi Limon, near Safad.

Avi Arbel, 34, who had been missing from his Merom Golan home since Monday, was found drowned in a large water pipe he had been working on. His body was pulled out by navy divers.

Water levels still low

TIBERIAS (Itim). — Despite recent rains the country's water reservoirs are dangerously low, Mekorot spokesmen say, and the Kinneret's water level is still at a record low for the season.

The rains, which did help farmers, did not last long enough to saturate the soil and begin flowing into the aquifers. The salt level in many underground wells is increasing, and summer's water supplies will probably be affected.

Meanwhile, Mekorot is to invest some \$80 million in the "third water line to the Negev," as its newest irrigation plan is called. Water for the project, begun some months ago, will come from Dan region purified wastes, and will be used for Negev agriculture. It is to be completed in three years.



Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin answering the questions of Givati Brigade soldiers in the Negev yesterday during a tour of the Southern Command.

Dulzin says he'll fight party pressure on WZO 'shlihim'

By MOSHE KOHN
Jerusalem Post Reporter
The depoliticization of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency emissary (shlichah) system is only a matter of time, if WZO Executive chairman Arye Dulzin's estimate of his colleagues' views is correct.

Dulzin yesterday said that most of the recommendations of the Landau Commission report calling for the overhaul of the emissary system "are acceptable to all the members of the Executive."

"I'm not saying implementing the recommendations will be easy," he told *The Jerusalem Post*. "Bear in mind that the report calls for very substantial changes. But I'm going to fight for its adoption, and I expect that in the end it will be adopted and implemented."

He noted that only four departments are seriously affected by the report. They are the Department for Torah Education and Culture in the Diaspora, with 243 long-term emissaries abroad (as of last September); the general Education and Culture Department, with 151; Youth and Helalutz — 230; and Aliya — 84. These account for 708 of the 722 long-term emissaries serving the WZO in 121 localities throughout the world.

Under the present system, each department, headed by an appointee of one of the Zionist parties, controls the operations of its own emissaries. The Landau Commission recommends that emissary affairs be run by a single authority, comprising representatives of the WZO, the youth movements, and the public. Abroad, too, emissaries would no longer be responsible to particular departments, but to a central "chief of mission" who would coordinate all their activities as "all-purpose emissaries."

It is on these two points that Dulzin expects the main debate in the Executive.

I asked Dulzin whether he did not expect to be leaned on heavily by some of the political parties involved, since WZO-Agency politics



Arye Dulzin (Rubinger)

has traditionally been a function of Israel's national coalition politics. (Three of the above-mentioned departments are headed by Likud appointees and the fourth by a National Religious Party man.) He categorically rejected the possibility of making "any political deals involving elements outside the immediate concern of the Zionist movement. I've resisted such pressure before, and I will continue to do so," he declared.

He did not specify, but he was obviously referring to the Likud's failed effort, led by then-premier Menachem Begin, to give the WZO's aliyah portfolio to Ariel Sharon, and to his success in persuading Premier Peres, over the opposition of the NRP, that the government's "covenant" with the Jewish Agency requires it to consult the agency before taking action on the "Who is a Jew" issue.

Dulzin told *The Post* that he had asked Peres to intervene in the dispute between the Absorption Ministry and the WZO Aliya Department, and said Peres had agreed.

He also said that the Zionist General Council meeting at the beginning of next month is to deal with his proposal to bar from the Zionist Congress next year representatives of any country where the Zionist Movement does not hold elections.

TOURISTS: HERE'S A HEADLION WOTETH

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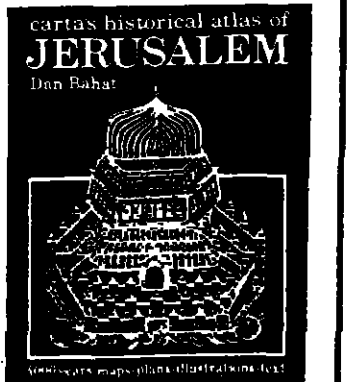
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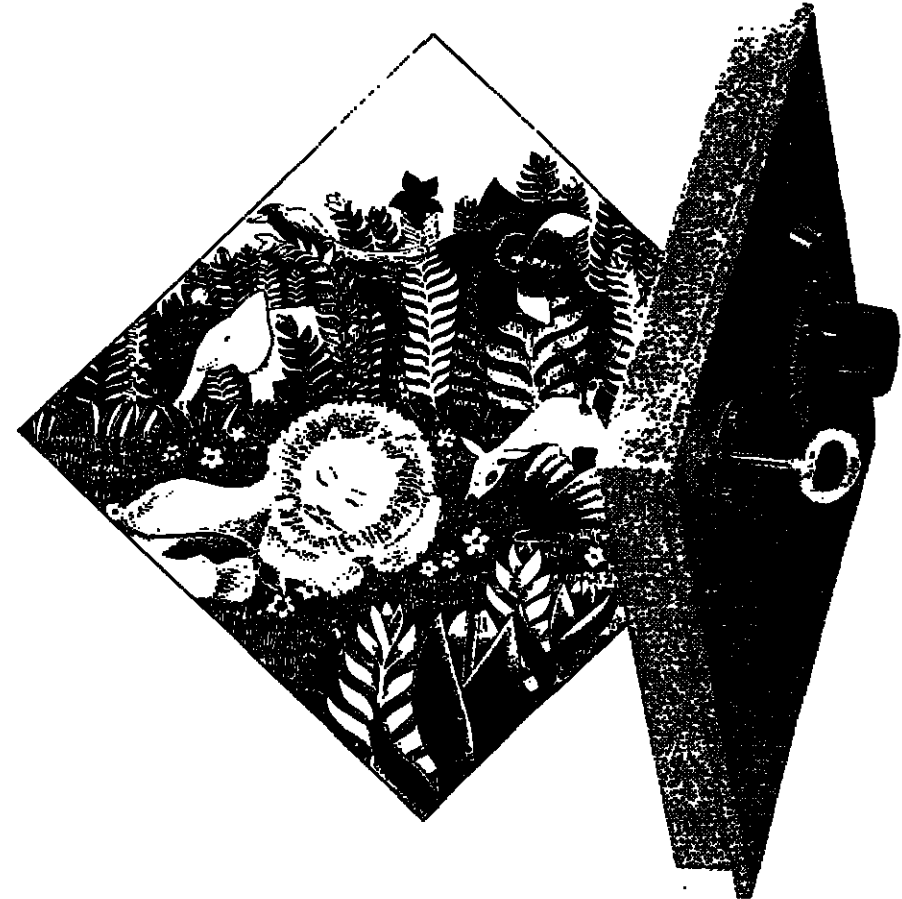
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U.S. hoping Bonn will join Libya boycott

BONN. - Deputy U.S. Secretary of State John Whitehead expressed the hope that West Germany would support the American boycott of Libya as he held a news conference yesterday on the second day of his stopover here. He is on a swing through U.S.-Allied nations in a bid to convince them to join the anti-Libya boycott.

Whitehead said he had asked Bonn officials to curb oil imports from Libya, ban high-technology equipment sales to that country, and stop airline flights between West Germany and Tripoli. The Libyan capital.

"This is not an American problem, this is a European problem," he added, in discussing the impact of international terrorism.

Whitehead said the U.S. government had "incontrovertible evidence" that Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi was behind the December 27 terrorist attacks at the Vienna and Rome airports that killed 19 people and injured more than 100 others.

Bonn officials have repeatedly emphasized that West German policy opposes economic sanctions on principle. The chief government spokesman has said economic embargoes often have unexpected and contrary consequences.

The visiting American repeated U.S. warnings that military action against Libya may be necessary if the U.S.-led trade embargo and other non-military measures prove ineffective.

Whitehead said that when President Reagan decided to impose economic

sanctions against Libya, "he reserved the right to once again reconsider the possibility of military action if the non-military measures do not succeed."

Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi told a news conference yesterday that Italy and Spain have agreed that their policies toward Libya must be part of a joint initiative by the European Community. The conference ended two days of talks between Craxi and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

In Athens, the day after Whitehead's visit, Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias told a news conference the Socialist government did not share American concern that Libya was fomenting "terrorist activities," in Europe.

"We have information from our own agencies that shows Libya was behind the Rome and Vienna airport attacks," Papoulias said.

Greece and Libya signed a billion dollar trade agreement, including an arms deal, in September 1984.

Meanwhile, New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange yesterday said New Zealand will not apply trade sanctions against Libya. Lange said the decision was taken in the light of the small volume of trade between the two countries, and the fact there was no international agreement to impose economic sanctions.

Austria yesterday announced the introduction of visa requirements for Tunisians and diplomats from certain countries in a move to increase security following the airport attacks in Vienna and Rome. (AP, Reuters)

Britain's floating palace playing heroic role in war

LONDON. - The royal yacht Britannia and a British cargo ship yesterday rescued more than 200 refugees from war-torn South Yemen, officials said.

Britannia's captain said fighting was believed to be raging around the Soviet Embassy where many foreigners were holed up.

The Foreign Office in London said the royal yacht, in its third rescue sortie, picked up 15 Britons, leaving about 25 Britons still awaiting evacuation.

About 200 more refugees, believed to be mainly Europeans, were taken aboard the Diamond Princess, a British cargo ship, after being rescued by tugs from the port of Mukalla, 480 kilometres east of Aden, the capital.

Heavy arms exchanges yesterday again erupted in Aden, hampering the evacuation of foreigners. Some 3,000 foreigners, two-thirds of them Soviet nationals, have been evacuated since last Friday.

The French Embassy in Djibouti said there were a number of French, Belgians and Filipinos stranded near



British refugees are rescued from a smoking Aden beach by the Britannia's jolly-boat on Sunday.

So for Peter White, a 62-year-old security guard at the British Embassy in Aden, spotting the sleek, 5,700-ton Britannia offshore ready to evacuate the frightened people was an emotional moment.

"We certainly got a lump in our throats," White said Monday on flying home after being plucked with over 600 other refugees by Britannia's 277-man crew from the oil-smeared Gulf of Aden beaches.

"We would just like to say thank you to the queen," he said.

Belgian police raid hideout of leading terrorist group

BRUSSELS (AP). - Police announced yesterday they have found a major hideout of Belgium's main terrorist group and arrested the bomb expert of another terrorist gang.

Police found six kilos of dynamite along with files and propaganda material of the Cellules Communistes Combattantes (fighting Communist cells) in a Brussels apartment last Thursday, said Andre van Doren, a state prosecutor.

He refused to comment, however, on reports that the documents showed the CCC planned to murder prominent businessmen and politicians, including Justice Minister Jean Gol.

Last month, police arrested alleged CCC leader Pierre Carette and three accomplices. The CCC claimed responsibility for 21 bomb attacks that killed two people in a 14-month period ending December 6. Gol said the CCC core is now in prison.

In another breakthrough, also last Thursday, Van Doren said police arrested Luc van Acker, 24, the alleged bomb specialist of the

Revolutionary Front for Proletarian Action, which claimed responsibility for two bomb attacks in April 1985.

"Van Acker has made statements," Van Doren said. He would not elaborate or comment on press reports that Pascal Paternostre, 39, who was arrested last summer, was the leader of the Frap, the group's French acronym.

Van Doren said there could be more anti-terrorist police actions during "the following days and weeks."

Several Belgian newspapers, quoting high-level sources, said in recent days that Thursday's raid showed the CCC, which specialized in attacks on Western defense contractors' offices, NATO installations, banks and political party institutions, also planned to bomb police headquarters in Brussels and other cities.

Van Doren showed reporters the CCC cache, which included bomb-making equipment, a pistol, ammunition, military maps, press clippings, a Belgian Who's Who and other papers of the CCC.

FOREIGN NEWS IN BRIEF

Ugandan military chief meets Tanzanian leader

DAR ES SALAAM (AP). - Ugandan military leader Tito Okello and Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi held talks Monday in the Tanzanian town of Musoma to review the situation in Uganda, Tanzanian Radio reported.

Former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere also attended the talks. Observers in Nairobi saw the meeting as underlining the seriousness of the situation in Uganda, where the army and guerrillas of the National Resistance Army (NRA) have been fighting around the capital Kampala since Friday morning, shattering a month-old ceasefire.

It was reported that the Ugandan government Sunday held a special cabinet meeting following what was described as "fierce clashes."

Lech Walesa to be tried for slandering officials

WARSAW (AP). - The Polish government said yesterday it would put Solidarity leader Lech Walesa on trial on charges of slandering state election officials, but indicated it was unlikely he would go to prison.

Meanwhile, opposition activists announced that more than 35,000 Poles had signed an appeal issued by Walesa and 76 prominent intellectuals in November, urging the authorities to halt political repression and free all the country's political prisoners.

Walesa, the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize winner, has not been brought to trial by the Communist government since he gained international prominence in 1980 with his leadership of the now-outlawed Solidarity free trade union.

He faces up to two years in prison or a stiff fine if convicted on charges he slandered state election officials by releasing voter turnout figures for the October 13 parliamentary elections that were lower than the official count.

June's: Soviets infiltrate UK's anti-nuke women

LONDON (AP). - June's Defence Weekly claimed yesterday that Soviet-trained female agents have infiltrated the women's anti-nuclear peace camp outside the U.S. nuclear cruise missile base at Greenham Common.

The magazine quoted Soviet defectors and informants as saying three to six Soviet-trained agents from Warsaw Pact and West European countries, including Britain, were present "at all times" since the missiles began arriving in 1983 at the base 80 kilometres west of London.

The Soviet Embassy claimed the report was designed to "whip up anti-Soviet psychosis," while a statement from the women camped at Greenham Common called it "a ludicrous, unsubstantiated slur."

The Defence Ministry declined to comment. But lawmakers on both sides of the House of Commons voiced shock and said they would question ministers about the report.

Hindu couple says son circumcised by mistake

DETROIT (AP). - A Hindu couple here has sued a hospital where their son was circumcised by doctors shortly after his birth on grounds that the boy had become a religious outcast.

Narendra Makati and his wife charged Hutzel Hospital with negligence and seek more than \$10,000 in damages.

Makati said his son was circumcised two days after his birth, and that hospital officials claimed the boy was circumcised because of a clerical error. The family's attorney said that "if the baby were born in India he would not be considered Hindu because of this."

SPORTS

Mud prevents practice

by PAUL KOHN

TEL AVIV. - National coach Yosef Mirimowitz has asked the Israel Football Association to take disciplinary action against Hapoel Tel Aviv players Arye Alter and Gabi Lasri for failing to turn up for a practice on Monday. Instead they were taking mud baths with the rest of the Hapoel Tel Aviv team in Ein Gedi. They and their coach, David Schweitzer, claim that they were injured and unable to practise, but

Mirimowitz rejects this excuse, saying he saw them play on Saturday, and they were perfectly fit.

Three of the hottest sharpshooters in British football are included in the Scottish soccer squad that arrives here on Sunday for next Tuesday's friendly international against Israel at Ramat Gan. They are Charlie Nicholas, Arsenal, who has scored seven goals in his last six games; McAlveny of West Ham, who has scored 20 goals this season; and Graham Sharp, who has netted 16 goals for Everton. Manchester United's dynamic midfielder Gordon Strachan has also been named for the squad.

Toto Cup

TEL AVIV. - Hapoel Be'er Sheva will meet Hapoel Petah Tikva in the final of the Toto Cup, as a result of the two teams winning their semi-final matches at Ramat Gan yesterday. Be'er Sheva beat Maccabi Tel Aviv 2-1, and Petah Tikva defeated Maccabi Netanya 1-0. Ronen Solov (15th minute) and Eyal Weisman (60th) scored for Be'er Sheva and Alan Nathan (2nd) for Tel Aviv. Alan Hazzam scored the Hapoel Petah Tikva winner.

In the second division, Toto Cup matches, Hapoel Acre beat Hapoel Holon 4-1, and Hapoel Hadera ousted Hakoah Ramat Gan 1-0.

Perkis tries again

by JACK LEON

TEL AVIV. - Israel's top 21-year-old player Shahar Perkis leaves for Philadelphia today, to launch his 1986 NBA season. Perkis' participation in the U.S. Pro Indoor Championships, worth \$70,000 in prize money, Perkis' current ATP world singles ranking of 72 is still not high enough to earn him direct entry into the 48-draw, and so he will be among the 48 starters in the weekend's qualifying round - with six going through to the tournament proper. However, the 22-year-old Hapoel has been accepted as a direct entry in doubles, with his partner still not known.

For Perkis, this is a "make or break" period, as he struggles to regain the top form which has eluded him ever since he returned to the tennis tour last summer, after being sidelined for several months with a very minor heart abnormality. "I am feeling finer than at any time since my layoff, though there is still a little room for improvement in my physical condition," Perkis told me yesterday. During his American trip, he will have a check-up by the Washington heart specialist who examined him in August and approved his return to full-time competition.

However, Perkis has cut down his tournament schedule this year to a maximum of 20 events. This compares to the 26 in which he participated in the 12 months prior his layoff - when he claimed 120 places on the world singles rankings, getting as high as 53rd on the computer last March.

Holon on the rise

By DON GOULD

TEL AVIV. - On the stroke of the half-time buzzer, big Joe Cooper popped in a magnificent three-pointer long shot which inspired Hapoel Holon teammates to defeat Elitzur Netanya 100-88 in the feature game of Monday night's national league basketball action. Hapoel Holon, who has scored seven goals in his last six games; McAlveny of West Ham, who has scored 20 goals this season; and Graham Sharp, who has netted 16 goals for Everton. Manchester United's dynamic midfielder Gordon Strachan has also been named for the squad.

Their win lifted Holon into second place in the league standings for the first time this season. Although Maccabi Tel Aviv have fairly rumpled away with the league with two rounds to go, the battle is joined for second spot. Hapoel Netanya and Hapoel Tel Aviv are seeking that place in order to be in a better position for the subsequent playoffs. Cooper with 36 points led the Holon players into double figures.

Carl Webster's 23 was best for Elitzur. Hapoel Holon have rescued themselves from the bottom of relegation by virtue of a fighting 110-73 victory over Maccabi Ramat Gan, with Larry Combs pumping in 27 points. On the other hand Elitzur Kiryat Oso had another day of their coffin when Hapoel Tel Aviv beat them 109-91. Brad Leaf, with 29 points, Elitzur Gali Elyon to a 111-90 win over Maccabi Hapoel.

Tonight, Hapoel Tel Aviv seek to avert a third straight road defeat in the Korac Cup when they play Chassan of France, whom they beat 81-77 in the first game here last December. Hapoel will be buoyed by the return of their captain Mike Langer, but they will miss Earl Williams, who has been banned from all European play by his unruly behaviour in the last game in Yugoslavia.

SCOREBOARD

TENNIS, Martina Navratilova, although she was suffering from a stomach ailment, beat Claudia Kohde-Kisch 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 to win the New England Classic in Worcester.

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THE GREAT DEBATE of the colloquium, which engaged the Israeli as well as the Diaspora participants, was over whether Jewish journalists in general and Israeli journalists in particular have a special obligation of restraint in reporting and commenting on controversial aspects of Jewish and Israeli life.

The issue was debated heatedly, though all the discussants seemed to agree on some really undefined "responsible criticism."

The debate was led off by Norman Podhoretz, a mentor of American neo-conservatism who was recently feted in the U.S. on his 25th anniversary as editor of *Commentary* magazine (which, in turn, is now celebrating its 40th birthday), and Hannah Zemer, editor of the Israel Labour movement's daily *Davar*. The stated subject was "The press and the preservation of the Jewish people."

Podhoretz opened by laying down the "axiom" that "the preservation of the Jewish people involves above all else ensuring the survival of Israel." From this, he said, follows a second axiom: "It is in Diaspora Jewry's own self-interest to man the ramparts in the relentless ideological war" being waged against Israel, which, he said, "I take to be a war against the Jewish people as a whole."

So "the role of Jews who write in both the Jewish and the general press is to defend Israel, and not join in the attacks on Israel," Podhoretz categorically asserted again and again, in various formulations, during his 15-minute presentation and in his replies to subsequent comments and questions.

He said the "ideological front of the war against Israel is in some ultimate sense more decisive than the military front." And he believed that this war was becoming "more and more relentless every day, especially as the military option for the Arabs becomes less and less likely."

"Of course Jews have a right to criticize," Podhoretz said, promptly adding: "But choose your shots."

ADDRESSING the Israeli press, he said: "You have to face the fact that the internal political debate in Israel, when it reaches a certain pitch of intensity, has an extremely damaging effect in the U.S. and other Diaspora countries. It is hard for Israeli journalists to understand how crushing a blow they deal the political fortunes of Israel in the U.S. by calling Israel a fascist country - as many of them do; what damage they do to Israel by blowing up the Kahane phenomenon out of proportion."

All this, Podhoretz declared, "helps Israel's enemies - and they are legion in the U.S. - to say more



Norman Podhoretz: 'Of course Jews have a right to criticize Israel... but choose your shots.'

On manning the ramparts

Moshe Kohn reports on the controversy stirred at the three-day International Colloquium of the Jewish Press held in Jerusalem last week

and more openly that Israel is not a democratic country."

Podhoretz differed from the contention of Conroy Cruise O'Brien and other speakers from various countries, who maintained that the outcry in Israel over the Sabra and Shatila massacres had bolstered Israel's moral status in the world. He said the volume of the outcry "was so great that the impression was created that the Jews had in fact committed the massacres."

He was basing his stand, he said, on the fact that no other country in the world besides Israel has to prove its right to exist, "even as a lousy country."

He declared: "You sometimes get the impression from some of the Israeli and the world press that Israel is the worst country in the world. But even 'worst' countries aren't having to prove their right to exist."

The crux of the problem is that "Israel is powerless to establish its legitimacy in the eyes of the Arabs, which leaves some Jews feeling impotent, as a result of which they turn on themselves with the thought that everything would be all right if only

we did something that we have failed to do."

The issue, he said, is not "freedom to criticize," elaborating: "I am the last one to suggest banning criticism. Criticism is my livelihood. But the statement 'freedom to criticize' is - he continued somewhat cryptically - 'only the beginning of the discussion, not the end of it.' And he concluded (the connection was not altogether clear): "People should understand the seriousness of what they do and assume responsibility for it."

HANNAH ZEMER opened her succinct presentation by agreeing that the preservation of the Jewish people depends on the survival of Israel. But she added that the converse is equally true.

As for the role of the Jewish press, she said she "understands" Podhoretz "emotionally more than intellectually," admitting that when she travels abroad she is "more restrained in criticizing Israel" than when she is at home.

"But," she said impassionedly, "I cannot tell people not to criticize a particular policy. Criticizing a par-

ticular decision does not mean that you are attacking Israel. You can't expect people to justify the Lebanon war, which was a wrong war! All we can do is demand that the press be fair."

At one point she said: "I can imagine some decisions that you, Norman, would attack."

Podhoretz, at the dais, seemed to reflect hard a few moments, and then let go a vigorous nod, as if in assent. He never publicly responded to Zemer's challenge. In a private conversation afterwards he told me: "The only decision by Israel that I know I'd criticize publicly would be one to join a Communist alliance. I'm being flippant, of course. The point is: I make a distinction between criticism and ideological attack, and I think that's clear enough for anybody who wants to understand."

Zemer and Podhoretz both received hearty applause. From the respective volumes it was hard for the untrained ear to tell which of them had "won" the debate.

In the discussion that followed, however, the consensus seemed to lean heavily towards Zemer's view, and O'Brien's, about the moral and pragmatic value of free criticism. This support came from participants from different countries and different generations, from various political sectors, from an orthodox editor in France and a Marxist in Latin America.

"Self-criticism is the very life's breath of Zionism," said one. "Besides, the anti-Semites don't need the Jewish press to justify their attacks on Israel."

"Some Israeli policies affect us, so we have a right to criticize," said another. "Besides, our people read other newspapers, and if we don't tell them, we will lose credibility. But of course, criticism should be fair and responsible."

But another said: "Jewish journalists must not give the floor to anti-Semites. Criticism must stop when it reaches the point where it harms Israel. If we want real input in Israel, we must come to live here."

AS I SAID, the consensus seemed to favour "free and responsible" criticism. But nobody seemed to be able to say just where the borderline is between "responsible" and "irresponsible." And it was sometimes difficult to tell the relative weights of the moral and image-building elements in the arguments of many advocates of free criticism.

Perhaps it all adds up to a cultivation of that mystic sensibility involved in the ancient talmudic assertion, "Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh" - All Jews are responsible to and for each other, "a sensibility that perhaps alone makes it possible, as Podhoretz put it, for those who wish to understand, to understand."

'The experience is thrilling'

By MOSHE KOHN

"IT'S ONLY HERE that I discovered the real meaning of *kol Yisrael* - the variegated commonwealth that is the Jewish people," enthusiastically said the young news editor of an American Jewish communal weekly, here on his first visit.

I had asked him what he thought of the three-day International Colloquium of the Jewish Press in which he had participated and which had just ended (last Thursday evening).

"All told, the experience is thrilling. Just being here, and on top of that having the chance to exchange experiences and views with a colleague from Argentina, a colleague from France." My interlocutor this time was the greying editor of another such newspaper in the U.S., veteran of both the general and the Jewish press, who has already been to Israel several times.

"I think it's wonderful to have this chance to meet so many colleagues from all over the world and discuss things with them. And, of course, just being in Israel at last," said a young woman journalist from Europe.

"I'm finding it very interesting," a very young Israeli daily-newspaper reporter told me earlier in the day, during a coffee break in the discussion on "The relationship between the press and the community." What he found "very interesting" was "seeing so many young people taking part, and hearing the great and intelligent concern" of all the participants over the issues being discussed.

My four interlocutors were among the approximately 150 print- and electronic-media journalists from 23 countries, including Israel, who were

participating in the colloquium, organized by the World Zionist Organization's Information Department, the Government Press Office and the World Union of Jewish Journalists. About 85 were from abroad, representing about 70 Jewish periodicals and five Jewish radio programmes. The only television journalists were Israelis.

Five languages, with simultaneous translation via earphones, were heard in the proceedings: English, French, Yiddish, Spanish and Hebrew.

Much of the discussion concerned the difficult financial conditions under which most Jewish communal periodicals work; the fact that so many of them are subsidized by communal funds, which results in a curtailment of their freedom; assimilation and the resultant loss of readers; and government attempts to interfere with freedom of the press in Israel. "This isn't a dialogue; it's a walling session," impassionedly said an Argentinean participant at one point.

An unscheduled speaker, Mikhael Hefetz, a former Soviet *refusenik* living in Israel, gave an account, in Hebrew, of the conditions under which the variegated Jewish *Samizdat* (meaning: "I publish myself") underground literature in the Soviet Union is produced and circulated. When he had finished, the chairman of that session, *Ha'aretz* publisher and editor Gershon Schocken said: "It would seem that a government ban on publishing is a great incentive to publish."

Many of the Diaspora colloquium participants are still here, meeting - with the help of the organizers - a wide range of spokespeople from all sectors of the population throughout the land

Cynics, crusaders and others

IT SOMETIMES seems to people that journalists "will stop at nothing to get the story," and that they consider "their duty as journalists [to] come before their duty as citizens," former London *Observer* editor-in-chief Conroy Cruise O'Brien told the colloquium.

On the other hand, he said, "the public likes the stories while despising those who procure them." And "journalists who succeed in mass-circulation papers are more highly regarded than those who succeed in high-level papers."

This, O'Brien said, is a major factor in journalists' turning cynical and deciding, as one "serious editor" put it, "Whatever interests the public is in the public interest." Or as others put it: "If the paper doesn't sell, it won't have readers; no readers - no advertisers; no advertisers - no paper; no paper - nothing to sell."

Expressing a general distaste for what are called "crusading journalists," O'Brien said: "We should remember that the Crusaders were people who made holy noises while what they were really out for was the loot."

O'BRIEN, a veteran journalist and



Conroy Cruise O'Brien

diplomat who has often staunchly defended Israel against news-media bias and other unfair attacks, said there are "no signs of direct, unmediated anti-Semitism in the press." However, there is "a certain psychic amalgam: an element of imperfectly suppressed old-fashioned anti-Semitism, combined with some guilt about this, combined with horror about the practical consequences of anti-Semitism in the fourth and fifth decades of our century."

So when Israel began to win crushing victories in its wars, and especially after Sabra and Shatila, even though Israel had no direct

hand in that, some people "were now able to shout with satisfaction: 'Aha, the Jews are behaving like the Nazis, so that lets us off the hook!'"

O'Brien believed that "Israel could have got a much worse press" after Sabra and Shatila. But after the Kahan Commission report, "numerous journalists began to feel ashamed of themselves for having likened Nazi Germany to a country that had established a commission of inquiry to investigate military indiscretions," and a country, moreover, with a press that had played such a major role in bringing about that inquiry.

So he counselled against accusing journalists of anti-Semitism "when they say nothing explicit." On the other hand, when they make "dreadful comparisons" like the above, "ask them to validate them, which of course they can't do."

"Pointed correction," O'Brien said, "is more effective than moral admonition. You might as well admonish the Milky Way as admonish the news media: they are not a moral entity. Besides, if you complain to the press about getting a bad press, you are likely to get an even worse press." *AI K*

'Pent-up hostility'

I WELCOME this conference, because by the very nature of such a meeting much self-criticism will be heard.

One of the problems of the press in general in the world, has been its unwillingness to criticize itself and to examine itself. Nobody is perfect and nothing is perfect and sensitivity to such an extreme degree to criticism surely does not reflect credit on the profession.

In recent years the press throughout the world has begun to engage in a very considerable degree of self-criticism. Some five years ago the American Newspaper Publishers' Annual Conference heard from its president a scathing attack on the standard of the press and the deterioration of its standards. Only this year Fleet Street's youngest editor, Mr. Andrew Neil of the *Sunday Times*, described the standard of the British newspapers as "pretty appalling," adding that "readers had been short-changed by newspapers, which got things wrong, slanted stories or simply made them up." In the U.S. there has been an increasing degree of self-examination as the public has become more and more disenchanted with the media... This came to expression during the U.S. intervention in Granada, when President Reagan excluded reporters from the scene. The leading ABC anchorman reported at the time that 99% of his mail from viewers on the issue supported Reagan.

The reaction of the public at that time and on subsequent issues highlighted a pent-up public hostility and distrust of the attitude of journalists to accuracy. Perhaps nothing could be more telling than what we experienced in Lebanon at the hands of world media. Books and pamphlets have been published on this issue and reveal a most cavalier attitude to mere facts.

I can recall the hair-raising stories of anti-Semitic prejudice on the part of editorial staffs which were related to me by their correspondents here in Israel. A special correspondent of one of the leading and most important networks in the world freely admitted to me that we had every reason to complain. He told me that he broadcast a story from Sidon in which he gave the exact number of killed in the city (as I just pointed out

Excerpts from President Chaim Herzog's address at the Colloquium's opening session.

- between 250 and 300). They called him back from his headquarters and advised him that they could not produce his story because they were already on record as reporting that many thousands had been killed in Sidon.

THIS SMALL country faces a specific problem because it is overexposed. We have here in Israel today the largest foreign press corps in the world, with the exception of Washington. These are permanent staffs of hundreds of people who have to provide copy. By the very nature of things they seek sensations, and the net result is that the average citizen in many West European countries is more familiar with politics and developments in Israel than he is with the situation in his neighbouring country.

Our problem is complicated by the fact that we are an open democracy and the only place in our strife-torn area where the media can operate freely. But as you are aware a war is not a war where there is no television. Where there is television that has little else to do, a local instance of stone throwing at passing vehicles is highlighted as a bloody battle by the news media of the world.

I spoke some years ago at the Weizmann Institute on this subject. I took the latest edition of the *London Times* that had come to my hands. On page 4 there was a report of a bloody conflict in Afghanistan; an Iranian-Iraqi battle was hidden on the fifth page. The death of 500 people in the election campaign in Jamaica at the time was covered in a small item on page 3. The struggle of Solidarity in Poland was also assigned to the inside pages.

The front page had four major headlines: three were devoted to domestic British issues. The lead headline on the width of the page was, and I quote: "Battle of the Sabbath on the Ramot Road."

WITH JEWISH communities everywhere in the free world concerned by problems of survival and identity,

the Jewish press has a no less historic role to play.

The Jewish press is a press with a mission. It must be a dynamic educational factor in Jewish life, underscoring the importance of subjects related to our tradition, history and faith. Faithfully reflecting the life of the community, it must make possible the expression of all points of view and even endeavour to bring alienated groups back to the Jewish fold. Above all, if its voice is to be heard and prove influential, the Jewish press must be reliable, interesting and relevant.

On such great problems as the fight against anti-Semitism, the right to aliyah of oppressed Jews, and their right to study their national language and tradition, the Jewish press can be a galvanizing and initiating force within the community. At the same time the press will give expression to the struggle. Along with these general Jewish concerns the press must focus on the great communal effort to support Israel.

The Jewish press must surely ask itself why in the U.S., for instance, some 80 per cent of the Jewish public have not yet visited Israel. Surely a visit to Israel with the effect it does have on tourists, who invariably, to their amazement, find that realities in Israel bear very little relation to the image abroad, must also be in the interest of the Jewish press itself.

THE QUESTION of Diaspora Jew involvement in Israeli affairs will be raised here.

We invariably inform the Jewish communities throughout the world that we are partners in a great enterprise. The corollary is therefore that Jewish communities not only have a right to express opinion about and criticize aspects of Israeli public life, but they have the duty to do so.

I say this with the proviso, however, that while Jewish communities and the Jewish press must be free to express their views about various aspects of Israeli policy and life, they must realize that in the final analysis, the decision on these issues lies only with those who pay the price - whether this is in standard of living, in economic terms or, as has been the case on many occasions, in blood. In other words - with the people of Israel.

their giving, among other ways - makes them better Jews."

Finally, Finance Minister Modai said that the donations from abroad were "essential" to the success of the present economic-stabilization plan. Lewinsky noted that the Agency-WZO budget, including that of Project Renewal, is \$550 million, of which \$450m. are covered by the Diaspora fund drives. *M.K.*

The Jewish World is edited by Moshe Kohn

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Countering critics of the Jewish Agency

THE JEWISH AGENCY'S shortcomings are "blown up out of proportion," Agency-World Zionist Organization treasurer Akiva Lewinsky told the colloquium.

Critics, he said, "declare that our job is long over, and take us to task for being so politicized. But it's very interesting: they praise the various departments for the great job each of them has done - Aliya and Absorption and the 1.8 million olim it has cared for since the establishment of the state; Operation Moses; Youth

Aliya; the Settlement Departments. But the minute the word *sochnut* (Jewish Agency) is uttered - along comes the barrage of criticism."

Regarding the observation that donations from abroad cover only a tiny fraction of Israel's budget, Lewinsky made three main points. First, giving to Israel causes "is an expression of Diaspora Jewry's concern for Israel and their recognition of its centrality in their lives."

Secondly, "their partnership in our endeavour - as expressed by

MARKET PLACE

Macabee Dean

Pensions don't allow for dignity

TEL AVIV. — Can a person who retires after working 35 years live in dignity on his pension?

"It all depends on your definition of dignity," says Labour MK Nava Shtrik. Her interest, and her constant efforts to improve the conditions of senior citizens, stems from many years of social welfare work.

She defines "living in dignity" as being able to eat a healthy, but not expensive diet, to be warm in the winter, cool in summer, to replace worn-out clothing, buy the grandchildren a birthday present, go to an occasional movie or theatre and buy a book now and then. It even includes taking a vacation once a year or so, without seeking aid from their children.

According to her own definition, the overwhelming majority of pensioners "cannot live in dignity on their pensions after 35 years of work with full pension rights."

So far, most interest in this field has centred on helping those who have accumulated 35 years of pension rights, since they came to this country in middle-age or later, upon whom who are chronically sick and need nursing care, or on those who are actually hungry, need clothes and housing.

The plight of all these persons and of those who earned their right to retire in "dignity" is thrown together in one category. And here are statistics: there are approximately 400,000 such persons in Israel.

These senior citizens who did their 35-year-plus stint of work, can be divided into three large groups.

Worst off are those who never accumulated any pension rights.

The most this category can expect from the National Insurance Institute is 25 per cent of the average wage, if they are single, or 37 per cent if they are married, plus a supplementary social benefit, if they have no other income. Surprisingly, this group includes some persons who manage to arrive on this, since their standards of living were always low.

The second group includes public civil servants in the broadest sense, those who worked for the government, municipalities, local authorities and national institutions. Their pensions are what is called "budgetary," that is, they are paid out of the national budget. They did not have to contribute to these pensions. They retired believing that they would get 70 per cent of their last pay cheque, linked to the index.

This certainly seems reasonable. Generally they own their own homes, their children are married and have moved away. So there is no reason why they can't live on 70 per cent of their last salary. But there are two terrible catches here.

First, the 70 per cent is based only on their basic wage — not on their allowances for cars, telephones, etc., which in most cases constitutes 38 per cent of their salaries. Thus, their 70 per cent pension is based on 62 per cent (i.e. their basic wage), and 70 per cent of 62 gives them a pension of only 42 per cent. But these civil servants do receive an additional 16 per cent of the average wage from national insurance if they are single, 4 per cent if they are married.

These public servants are disadvantaged in another way. Suppose they retired in the highest grade, A, or, for example, they are linked to this grade for life. But the government he next year introduces grade AA as the highest grade, and the year after grade AAA, as the highest grade. Thus, the old grade A of the pensioner has slipped down to third place on the pay schedule.

The third main group is made up of those who belong to one of the seven Histadrut pension funds. Arad admits that the pension here is also paid only on the basic wage, which means a person retires with only 42 per cent of his last pay cheque, not 70 per cent. But at least here the game of laying around with "new grades" does not exist. These people also get 6 per cent and 24 per cent monthly benefit from National Insurance.

The Histadrut pension funds are far from perfect, but they are still better than the government funds, Arad says.

What happens if a person years go say he could not live in dignity on his salary and opened a provident fund with a bank or an insurance company? Arad thinks that these funds will be the last thing "taxed" by the government, because such action would convince people that no savings scheme was inviolate; moreover, there is a law "protecting people's savings." But if the entire economy collapses, no law will help.

Ministers differ about details

New 6% levy on foreign currency loans

By AVI TEMKIN

In a move designed to prevent a flood of foreign currency loans, the Ministerial Economic Committee yesterday decided to impose a 6 per cent levy on such loans. The date from which the levy will be effective has not yet been decided.

According to a government release, the levy will apply only to future loans in the case of long-term credits, but it will be imposed on future as well as existing loans in the case of short-term obligations.

Some of the ministers who participated in the meeting, including Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, were not sure that this was what they

decided. Minister-without-Portfolio Yigal Hurvitz told *The Jerusalem Post* that the levy would apply only to future loans, and not to any existing ones. Moda'i said he did not know about any decision to impose a levy on existing obligations.

The Bank of Israel spokesman later insisted that the committee had decided to tax existing short-term debts. But he said that until the levy is introduced, firms will have the opportunity of repaying their short-term obligations. At the end of November the total of short-term obligations in the private sector to creditors abroad came to about \$1.2 billion.

In addition to the levy, the committee decided on a series of moves designed to cheapen credit in shekels, so as to compensate the business sector for the levy on foreign currency loans.

The committee decided to drop the liquidity margin requirements on credits granted from 9 per cent to 1 per cent. It will also make possible the early redemption of employers' compulsory loan certificates held by the private sector, up to a ceiling of \$70 million.

The Bank of Israel also announced its intention to reduce monthly interest rates on loans by 0.5 per cent.

PERES WAITING

(Continued from Page One)

ing News programme, Peres confirmed that his scheduled departure from office in October may be pressing him to move peace efforts forward.

"If this is a good reason to [hold] the negotiations, why not?" Peres told CBS. "I mean, I wouldn't contradict it."

Peres was also quoted by an Israeli official as saying, "the king is aware that there is an urgency about starting talks."

"From our point of view, we are ready to meet the king to start direct negotiations that will deal primarily with the situation of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and to improve the quality of life there," the official quoted Peres as saying.

Peres was due in London after midnight, where he was to be met by British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe. Israeli Ambassador to the UK Yehuda Avner and leading members of the Jewish community.

High-profile security arrangements are in effect in London for Peres's visit, with armed policemen in evidence — though with their weapons discreetly out of sight.

After a brief meeting with Howe

this morning, Peres will have a 90-minute session with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. In the evening he will return to Thatcher's 10 Downing Street residence for an official dinner.

Israeli officials said yesterday that Peres would try to enlist Thatcher's support and persuade Britain to use its good relations with Hussein and the rest of the Arab world to bring about direct peace talks.

British media interest in Peres's visit has been increasing by the day, with coverage on radio, television and in the national press.

The prime minister is to follow two days of intensive political discussions with a packed schedule of other meetings, including lunch with Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

The British government attaches great importance to the visit, seeing it as sealing an improvement of relations, which reached a low point during the Lebanon War in 1982.

Thatcher and Peres have only met once before in their official capacities, when both attended a special session of the UN in New York.

On Sunday Peres is to continue on to West Germany.

N. SEA OIL

(Continued from Page One)

The collapse of North Sea Crude to below \$20 a barrel meant it was worth hauling oil around the Cape of Good Hope to Japan, which imports 4 million barrels a day.

"This is a repeat of the 1979 oil shock in reverse," one trader said.

Japanese traders reported buying an unprecedented 3.5 million barrels of North Sea oil in the last few days. Refiners said they expected this to shock Saudi Arabia, which has been wavering over cheap oil deals with Japan, into signing new agreements quickly.

In New York, meanwhile oil futures prices continued falling yesterday, driven down by an overabundance of supply, weak demand and, some analysts said, the market's own momentum.

"Confusion, nervousness, uncertainty — those are the watchwords," Peter Beutel, an analyst at Rudolf Wolff Futures Inc., said.

In Kuwait, a member of Opec, Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al-Sabah, predicted that oil-producing nations would eventually reach a compromise on oil supply, "to end the chaos on the international market."

(AFP, Reuters, AP)

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:

General Share Index	98.22	-1.44%
Non-Bank Index	102.17	-1.60%
Arrangement	96.62	-1.36%
Insurance	102.88	-1.63%
Commerce, Services	102.27	-1.08%
Real Estate	102.66	-1.77%
Investment Cos.	101.68	-2.86%
Industrials	100.75	-1.47%
Textiles	101.85	-1.88%
Metals	96.70	-2.80%
Electronics	97.51	-1.44%
Chemicals	102.99	-0.53%
Industrial Invest.	98.24	-2.27%
General Bond Index	98.41	-0.34%
Index-linked Bonds	98.99	-0.53%
Partially-linked	98.15	-0.84%
Dollar-linked Bonds	98.42	-0.46%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	97.39	+0.33%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	98.52	-0.14%
Long-term 5+ yrs	98.74	-0.37%
	97.30	-0.57%

Turnovers:

Shares — total	NIS 5,798,200
Arrangement	NIS 3,094,000
Non-bank	NIS 2,704,200
Bonds — total	NIS 3,567,800
Index-linked	NIS 2,016,700
Dollar-linked	NIS 1,530,300
Treasury Bills	NIS 4,780,000

Share Movements:

Advances	68 (138)
Declines	10 (4)
Unchanged	232 (144)
of which 5% —	48 (13)
"buyers only"	110 (17)
Unchanged	35 (46)

Bond Market Trends:

Index-linked	14.57%
3% fully-linked	Falls to 1%

4.25% fully-linked

Falls to 3%	
80% linked	Falls to 1%
30% linked	Mixed to 1%
Double-linked	Minor movements
Dollar-linked	Not traded
Admon	Rises to 0.5%
Rimor	Minor movements
Gilboa	Mixed to 1%
Fin. Curr.	Stable
denominated	
Treasury Bills	(monthly yield) -2.05 to 2.43%

Arrangement yields:

IDB ord.	14.90%
Union 0.1	14.38%
Central A	14.67%
Mizrahi A	14.77%
Hapoalim r.	14.78%
General A	14.25%
Leumi stock	14.57%
Fin. Trade 1	14.19%

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	% change
Commercial Banks			
(not part of "arrangement")			
Maritime 1	720	1118	-4.0
First Int'l	2500	1892	-
FIBI	2270	5530	-7.3
Commercial Banks			
(part of "arrangement")			
IDB r.	73400	1059	-1.5
Union 0.1	58300	47	-
Discount	94200	381	-1.1
Mizrahi	30300	918	-1.0
Hapoalim r.	50000	1138	-1.4
General A	129410	2	-
Leumi 0.1	31700	2224	-1.6
Fin. Trade	42760	2	+0.0
Mortgage Banks			
Leumi Mort. r.	3280	62	-2.8
Dev. Mort.	820	657	-4.0
Mishkan r.	1795	118	+1.6
Tafhot r.	10800	24	+0.3
Mervat r.	1550	531	-0.9
Financial Institutions			
Agric C	24500	-	-
Ind. Dev. DD	84047	-	-
Cial Leasing 0.1	4669	40	-
Insurance			
Ararat 0.1 r.	3055	226	+2.3
Haasneh r.	2050	1588	-6.0
Phoenix 0.1	1210	363	-
Haasneh r.	4880	71	-5.3
Haasneh r.	5740	-	-
Mizrahi 1	2498	140	-3.8
Sahar r.	7365	9	+1.0
Zion Hold. 1	-	-	-
Trade & Services			
Meir Ezra	3688	20	-
Supersol 2	3770	298	-3.3
Dolek r.	3650	1256	-2.7
Lightage	8948	28	+4.5
Cold Storage	770	86	-
Dan Hotels	3650	257	-
Yarden Hotel	2039	351	+8.2
Hilton 1	5000	-	-
Team 1	1480	60	-
Real Estate, Building and Agriculture			
Azorian	2590	2289	-6.5
Elion	535	1300	-1.6
Aliafor 0.1	31490	21	-
Danline	3000	200	-
Prop. & Bldg.	3880	779	-3.0
Bayside 0.1	8605	51	-0.2
ILDC r.	27180	137	-1.1
Russco r.	2200	175	+2.3
Mehadrin	11501	181	-
Haderim	1860	253	-2.6
Industrials			
Dubek b	2315	254	-1.7
Pr-Zet 1	3943	192	-3.0
Sunroast	5225	50	-2.1
Elite	9750	124	-
Adgar	535	190	-
Argaman r.	4250	-	-
Delta G 1	3201	20	-
Maquette 1	18820	18	+7.4
Eagle 1	18820	39	-10.0
Polgat 0.1	7400	71	-1.2
Schoellerma	9020	91	-0.9
Rogovin	2772	120	-4.1
Union 0.1 r.	11700	120	-6.3
Is. Can Co. 1	712	4504	-6.3
Zion Cablas	1800	427	-1.7
Pecker Steel	3800	104	-0.1
Elbit 3 r.	416000	6	-1.0
Elron	393000	5	-0.6
Arit	35200	11	-0.8
Cial Electronics	2400	717	-4.0
Spectronix 1	1372	741	-9.9
T.A.T. 1	3100	23	-1.9
Ackerstein 1	1030	1025	-
Agan 5	13900	35	-4.8
Alliance	772	b.o.1	-5.0
Deuter	2750	25	-1.8
Fertilisers	9951	8	-2.6
Haifa Chem.	985	13910	+2.7
Teva r.	47800	98	-2.5
Dead Sea r.	12510	655	-1.0
Petrochem.	313	8455	-2.2
Noca Chem.	3530	38	-1.9
Frutaron	9614	44	+10.0
Hedera Paper	131000	38	+1.5
Central Trade	5310	203	-0.1
Koor p.	4040000	-	-
Cial Inds.	1152	9913	-4.2
Investment Companies			
IDB Dev. r.	2790	4313	-5.3
Elion	1750	347	-1.1
Afr 1	630	850	+0.8
Gabriel	1354	14	-
Israel Corp. 1	3375	254	-2.9
Wolfson 1 r.	59500	-	-
Hapoalim Inv.	3700	762	-7.5
Leumi Invest.	3715	346	-4.4
Discount Invest.	3780	353	-4.1
Mizrahi Invest.	7700	25	+2.8
Cial 10	1980	2152	-1.3
Landeco 0.1	6500	25	-
Parme 0.1	6100	282	-1.6
Oil Exploration			
Paz Oil Expl.	10500	55	-2.6
J.O.E.L.	1297	1818	-3.4

Abbreviations: s.o. sellers only b.o. buyers only

b. bearer r. registered

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FINANCIAL DATA ISRAEL, EUROPE, U.S.

Israel Money Markets January 21, 1986

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES

PRIME BORROWING RATE: 2½% per month Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	LAST UPDATED	TAPAS	PAKAM 7-DAY	PAKAM 30-DAY
LEUMI	21.1	12-28%	13-28%	12-24%
HAPOALIM	- 8.1	15-25%	20-25%	21-26%
DISCOUNT	9.1	14-25.5%	15-26%	16-27%
MIZRAHI	9.1	12-18%	12-24%	12-24%
FIRST INT'L	9.1	16-30%	20-26%	26-28%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.

(Tapes: demand deposit paying daily interest.

Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (as of January 21)

	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD	7.500	11.875	7.625
STG	11.875	12.000	11.875
DMK	4.000	4.000	4.125
SFR	3.500	3.500	3.625
YEN	5.125	4.875	4.875

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY		CHEQUES AND TRANSACTIONS		BANKNOTES		BANK OF ISRAEL Representative Rates
			Purchase	Sale	Purchase	Sale	
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1	1.4788	1.4882	1.46	1.53	1.4813
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	1	2.0880	2.1140	2.05	2.15	2.1080
GERMANY	MARK	1	.6020	.6096	.62	.68	.6064
FRANCE	FRANC	1	1.981	1.985	.59	.20	1.977
HOLLAND	GULDEN	1	.5340	.5307	.53	.55	.5383
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	1	.7101	.7189	.70	.73	.7148
SWEDEN	KRONA	1	.1940	.1964	.19	.20	.1954
NORWAY	KRONE	1	.1953	.1978	.19	.20	.1967
DENMARK	KRONE	1	1.842	1.862	.16	.17	1.854
FINLAND	MARK	1	.2714	.2747	.27	.28	.2737
CANADA	DOLLAR	1	1.0544	1.0675	1.04	1.09	1.0630
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1	1.0369	1.0487	.97	1.07	1.0489
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	1	.6482	.6562	.63	.58	.6527
BELGIUM	FRANC	10	.2904	.2940	.29	.30	.2968
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	10	.8554	.8660	.84	.88	.8625
IRELAND	PUNE </td <td>100</td> <td>.8336</td> <td>.8367</td> <td>.82</td> <td>.86</td> <td>.8389</td>	100	.8336	.8367	.82	.86	.8389
JAPAN	YEN	100	.7304	.7395	.75	.72	.7366
JORDAN	DINAR	1			3.96	4.20	3.9743
EGYPT	POUND	1			.83	.88	.8717

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Sin of omission

IN THE HEAT of current debate over the specifics of economic policy, the sweep and audacity of the economic recovery programme launched last July is all too rarely appreciated. It was no mean feat to throttle back inflation, within a few months, from an annual rate of more than 400 per cent to the current rate of 12-18 per cent a year and to reduce the civilian trade deficit from \$2.9 billion in 1983 and \$1.6 billion in 1984 to \$550 million this year.

The acceptance by the wage earners of a real wage cut which, by last October, amounted to 23 per cent compared with the average of 1983, 1984 and the beginning of 1985, without mass strikes and disturbances has few comparisons in democratic countries. At the same time, while unemployment has gone up, it has not reached the dimensions of mass unemployment, or even the rates that have for more than a decade been considered "normal" in most industrialized countries.

These are solid achievements, and Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i was entirely justified in claiming credit for the success of an economic stabilization policy that has few equals in other countries. It is therefore all the more a pity that the budget he tabled in the Knesset on Monday represents no follow-up of these achievements by laying the foundations for that renewal of economic growth which is the avowed purpose of the policy. If the stabilization policy was an audacious assault on the major determinants of the economy's performance, the budget that follows it is one that carries caution to the extreme of timidity. Its watchword is "stabilization of the stabilization." The practical meaning of that is to make stability - another term for it is stagnation - its own purpose.

If there is a clear message in the 1986 budget, it is that the momentum of the economic recovery programme has been lost, and the government is content to rest on its dried laurels without the slightest attempt to follow through on the success of its policy so far. Up to a point, the caution that seems to have dictated this approach is understandable. There are pitfalls in the road ahead; there is the constant danger that all that has been achieved so far may be undone almost overnight. That, however, is always true. It is not sufficient reason to go on treading water for an entire fiscal year.

It goes without saying that stability is a necessary precondition for economic growth, but it is far from being a sufficient condition. Growth will not fall like manna from heaven; it is a plant for which the soil must be tilled and watered before it can be harvested. A budget that does not contain even a shred of provision for it will choke it off even if some sprouts of it would break through the barren soil.

The spokesmen of the Treasury, the Bank of Israel, the Ministry of Economics and Planning, assisted by much of academia, talk airily of "structural transformation" as the engine and precondition of renewed economic growth. What they mean is that the economy needs more production of goods and services that can be sold abroad. That is so true as to be platitudinous. But it does not necessarily follow that an attempt must be made forcibly to shift employment from services to industry, and even less so that such an attempt would succeed in increasing the production of internationally tradeable goods and services.

What is indeed required is an increase in industrial and other exportable output - but given the undercapitalization of much of our apparatus of production, that may mean the modernization of plants that are far from the state-of-art technology, with higher mechanization and automation. And that may eventually not only mean less rather than more employment in direct production, but primarily that the much-touted "structural transformation" that we need may be not a precondition for growth, but its result.

That is where the budget comes in. In an economic system that has for decades not been under any perceptible pressure to reduce its costs of production, that has become accustomed to compensating itself for inefficiency by inflation in the domestic market and subsidies to exports, modernization and productivity must be promoted and accelerated by government policy if it is not to be postponed to days of the Messiah.

In his budget speech, Mr. Moda'i promised that in fiscal 1986 the government will devise an industrial development strategy. We indeed have had none for a long time, which makes it difficult to understand how an economically meaningful budget could have been compiled at all. But although late may be better than never, the budget might already have anticipated some salient aspects of the still-to-be devised strategy.

The renewal of economic growth does not necessarily mean that new enterprises have to spring up overnight, or that government grants and loans have to be showered on them. Still less does it mean that the government should pump cash into the economy, inflating demand so as to have production respond to it, at the cost of renewed inflation and again tearing holes in the balance of payments.

But what it does mean is that instead of timidly building up foreign reserves, the budget should have allocated at least part of the real resources that have been set free and those that have been given us by the U.S. to investment in the economic infrastructure and to raising productivity. The failure to do so is the budget's greatest, and possibly irreversible, sin of omission, because the resources that might now spark off a process of growth are unlikely to be available later.

SPANISH PREMIER

(Continued from Page One)

It is also understood that the Foreign Ministry's deputy director-general for economic affairs, Mordechai Drori, will soon visit Madrid to prepare talks between delegations on various aspects of Spain's entry into the EEC and on bilateral economic problems.

It has been learned that Gonzalez had decided to establish ties with Israel in mid-1985, but then foreign minister Fernando Moran persuaded him to hold off, arguing that Spain was indebted to the Arab states for preventing its diplomatic isolation in the 1950s, when the Western nations boycotted Franco's dictatorship.

Moran argued that it would be best to establish relations as part of the complex of changes accompanying Spain's entry into the EEC.

Last July, after a cabinet reshuffle in which Moran was ousted, it was decided to establish ties in October - but this was postponed because of Israel's bombing of PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Subsequently, it was decided to establish relations late this month or

next month (just before the March referendum on Spain's membership of Nato). But, apparently, continuous news media pressure on the government, and fears that further delay would provoke increasingly strong Arab counter-pressure, persuaded Gonzalez to wrap up the matter as quickly as possible.

The diplomatic process began in mid-December with a secret visit to Israel by Gonzalez's two main aides, Julio Feo, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, and Juan Antonio Yañez, head of the prime minister's bureau for international affairs.

Their talks with Peres were followed by a secret visit to Madrid by Labour MK Micha Harish and Peres's media adviser Uri Savir.

After these aides had worked out the basics of the establishment of ties, the deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Yeshayahu Anug, flew to Madrid in early January to work out the timetable with Spanish officials. Anug last Friday signed the agreement on establishment of ties with Spanish officials in The Hague.

The facts of Knesset life

ARYEH RUBINSTEIN

IN "Courting the Archie Bunkers" (this page, Jan. 19), Prof. Shevah Weiss distinguishes between revelations about the MKs' salaries and fringe benefits when made by the media and when made by their Knesset colleagues.

He gives the media the green light: it's their "job" to expose our public lives. Not so when the whistleblowers are MKs. First of all, says Weiss, they themselves are not without sin: some of them get a generous car allowance without even owning a car.

More important, the left-wingers who hope to make political capital by exposing the nakedness of the Knesset should have learned from history that "sinking the parliamentary boat by crusading against the political stereotype of corruption has only contributed to the strength of the far right."

The dichotomy seems artificial. If sullying the good name of the Knesset is liable to endanger our parliamentary system, why does Weiss not address to responsible journalists the same plea as he does to his parliamentary colleagues? Is he afraid of arousing the enmity of the press?

But there is a more basic weakness to Weiss's argument, particularly

when he permits himself to say, "Alas, there is no limit to the number of disclosures to be made about anyone."

"Anyone" in the context it was used means "any Knesset member," and if that is true, then the sooner we get rid of our parliamentary system the better.

But of course it isn't true. Not every MK without a car signs a statement saying that he owns one. Not every MK is charged with wire-tapping. Not every lawyer-MK tries to get the attorney general to stay proceedings against one of his clients.

WHAT is puzzling about Weiss's call to go easy on the unjustified perks of all MKs and on the skulduggery of some of them is that he himself is such an exemplary member. He has one of the best records for attendance in the plenum, and if any fault can be found with him it is perhaps that he speaks in too many debates, and thus risks being regarded as superficial.

And Weiss knows that many of his colleagues are not earning their keep: that some of them show up in the plenum so rarely that they hardly know where their seats are; that they ask not what they can do for the Knesset, but what the Knesset can do for them.

"Even when they sit in the Knesset," Geula Cohen has said, "their minds are on their private business. And on non-plenum days you never see them on committee tours."

Weiss knows that one third of our MKs have failed to return the form on their financial assets and income that they received from Speaker Shlomo Hillel towards the end of 1984 - and that Hillel has in effect acquiesced in their violation of the Knesset's code of ethics.

Hillel has not publicized the names of the recalcitrants, he has not reported them to the committee on ethics, and he has even made the amazing statement that the financial declaration was meant more for the good of the MK himself than for anyone else.

Weiss may even remember that Paragraph 15 of the ethics code requires the MKs to submit a financial declaration at the close of every fiscal year. If the Speaker fulfils his

duty and sends them new forms, why should anyone bother to fill them out?

Weiss knows that what was supposed to be the heart of the code - an outright ban on Knesset members representing clients before government agencies and government companies - was watered down at the House Committee's final meeting on the subject (in November 1983) at the insistence of two interested parties: Likud MKs Ronnie Milo and Ehud Olmert, both lawyers.

The change they pushed through permits such representation by MKs if the agency is represented by its legal adviser - which is almost always the case. Even at the time, it was clear that the addendum made a mockery of the "prohibition."

Weiss knows that the recent attempt by Shmuel's Mordechai Virshupski to restore the ban to its original, meaningful form has been stymied in the House Committee because of the objection of Weiss's Alignment colleague, David Libai, who is chairman of the Knesset Committee on State Control.

Libai argued that it would be unfair, in mid-Knesset, to impose restrictions on MK lawyers, economic consultants, etc., who have a private practice. If such restrictions had been in force before the elections these professionals might not have run for office at all.

WHETHER there really is an implied contract that the terms of service, pay, perks, and working conditions will not be worsened during the term to which an MK has been elected is surely an original thought. But it need not be given serious consideration. Libai revealed his true attitude when he failed to suggest that the change be adopted effective from the 12th Knesset.

Paradoxically, it was mainly the pressure of the Chamber of Advocates, which Libai headed when he was elected to the Knesset in 1984, that led the House Committee to adopt the code of ethics in the first place. The lawyers contended that for MK-lawyers to present clients before government agencies was unfair competition to lawyers lacking the entree bestowed by Knesset membership. But now the shoe is on the other foot.

Dry Bones



All this Weiss knows. He has advocated not only docking members' salaries for unwarranted absence, but also the adoption of another feature of Italy's parliament: a member whose attendance record is less than 50 per cent in a given year forfeits his membership.

"Knesset members," he has said, "are a guild of people who don't want to work and who laugh at those who do."

But suddenly Weiss is afraid that, if the "left" keeps harping on the sordid side of the Knesset, the Archie Bunkers will decide to march on the Knesset and crown some rightist as head of government. So let's be hush-hush about the facts of Knesset life.

On the contrary, I should think, let there be more and more exposures of improper behaviour on the part of our legislators. It is not news that many people, in both the private and public sectors, receive a car allowance even though they don't even use their cars to get to work. From Weiss's article, though, I learned that some Knesset members go beyond that and get the allowance even though they don't even own a car - which presumably entails a false statement to the Knesset Treasurer.

Isn't it the duty of a good citizen - even if he is an MK - to report such robbing from the public till?

The writer is the Knesset Reporter of The Jerusalem Post.

The price of recovery

ERIC GUTWILLIG

growth which is the only long-term cure for our economic malady.

In one sphere, however, the programme has succeeded, whatever its detractors may say. It has shown that inflation isn't the all-powerful monster it was thought to be, and that, if there is the will to do it, it can be brought under control.

For years the public was fed with declarations by Likud leaders that inflation was too high and would be brought down - and each time there was another twist of the inflationary spiral. Instead of getting better, in-

flation got worse, and one finance minister followed another, each proved more incapable of halting inflation than his predecessor. The public gradually came to look on inflation as it does on, say, traffic jams - an evil you have to learn to live with.

Along came the present government and said, "Enough!" What's more, they meant what they said, and the monster has been tamed. The question remains, at what price, and has it been worth it?

WHETHER the economic and political price has been worthwhile, only time will show. What can already be assessed is the very heavy social price we are paying.

When a construction company goes bankrupt, it is not the shareholders who are the main sufferers. It is the dozens of buyers who have invested all their savings and taken out loans, not to indulge in some luxury, but to have somewhere to live.

When a travel agency cannot meet its commitments, it's not only the rich who have booked expensive

cruises who suffer, but also the little man who has dreamt for years of taking his family on a trip abroad and who finds his dream going the way of the travel agency.

When a shipyard or a factory is forced to dismiss employees, one must not think of the unemployed as so many worthless units, but as husbands and fathers who have spent all their working lives sustaining their families and who suddenly find themselves wondering what their children are going to live on next month.

When education is cut to the bone, it is not only the future of society being jeopardized. It is individual parents, many of whom are already scraping the bottom of the barrel to educate their children, who now have to choose between scraping even harder or denying their children a decent education. In most cases the choice is obvious, but at what a sacrifice.

It is not a question of individuals suffering here and there. It is our next door neighbours; it is old-age pensioners and the elderly and sick. It is the youngster who, though he may not even know it, is being deprived of the education that is his right.

IF STOPPING inflation really demands such a price, the question arises, is it really worthwhile? After all, we weren't doing too badly in the years of inflation, so why halt it at such great human cost?

The question is often asked in all sincerity, and it deserves to be refuted unequivocally and in the strongest terms. Stopping inflation has brought hardships in its wake. But had it been allowed to continue unhindered, the eventual suffering would have been incomparably greater. Not only the economic but the social structure of our society was in danger of collapse.

It is doubtful whether our democracy could have survived for long at the rate at which inflation was progressing, and the measures which would eventually have had to be taken would have made the present ones look puny.

To look upon inflation as anything but a malignant evil is to show an utter lack of appreciation of reality. Perhaps more should be done to ease the hardships that economic recovery brings in its wake. Perhaps more compassion should be shown to those who are adversely affected by its ramifications. But all right-thinking persons cannot but wish the plan succeeds and do all they can to help achieve that end.

The writer is a freelance journalist living in Haifa.

READERS' LETTERS

ANTONIO GADES

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - On the occasion of the coming visit to Israel of the renowned Spanish dancer, Antonio Gades, who will perform in the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, we would like to draw your attention to the text of a rabidly anti-Israel petition signed by 100 intellectuals and artists, including him, and published in the Spanish press at the end of November (*El Pais* and other newspapers).

This particular petition was not only against the establishment of diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel but also opposed Spanish recognition of the State of Israel, asserting that Zionism is "one of the most cruel forms of contemporary racism."

DOV JOSELEVICH, European Officer, World Union of Jewish Students, Jerusalem.

ACTIVE RETIREES PROGRAMME

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - Greer Fay Cashman's article of December 26, "The shut shops of Netanyahu," included a brief interview with two ladies participating in the B'nai B'rith Active Retirees programme in Israel. They claim they do not know from one day to the next what they are doing.

We, a Canadian group, sponsored by Keren Kayemet and the Golden Age Association of Montreal, are on the same programme. This three-month programme of work and study is completely structured and well coordinated. Volunteer work is done in the mornings, Hebrew classes take place in the afternoon. Tours are planned in detail and each person receives a printed schedule of the entire three-month programme.

JEAN SMALL, For the ARP Canadian Group, Netanyahu.

BUCHENWALD UPRISING

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, - I read with astonishment Nat Kigel's story of January 10, "An eye for an eye," according to which on the morning of April 11, 1945, the Jews of Buchenwald found themselves alone, as the German jailers had fled before the advancing U.S. army.

Mr. Kigel rightly relates that some 3,000 Jewish inmates of Buchenwald had been saved by the uprising of the inmates while the U.S. army was approaching, but the impression he creates that only the Jewish inmates had taken the opportunity to liberate themselves and the camp, is false.

There existed an underground international camp committee with the participation of inmates, anti-Nazis of all sorts - communists, socialists, clergymen, and others from Germany, France, Poland, Greece, Belgium, the Soviet Union, etc. It would be too long to report the heroic deeds of the committee, which included saving Jewish inmates, particularly children and often paying for their activities with their lives.

After the Nazis tried (and partially succeeded) to wipe out all Jewish

inmates before the U.S. army arrived by sending them on horrible death marches, the committee gave orders on April 4, 1945, to disperse all 6,000 remaining Jewish inmates among the other prisoners. In spite of the fact that the Jews had ripped off their yellow star, the Nazis discovered nearly half of them.

On April 11, at 11 a.m., the committee's activists attacked the SS guards according to a well prepared plan. The uprising succeeded and the inmates liberated themselves and captured many of their former guards.

When the U.S. Army took over the camp on April 13, the former inmates were disarmed in a scene Nat Kigel describes so well. However, there were not only 3,000 Jews who "found themselves alone" in the camp liberated by the inmates uprising when the U.S. army arrived but at least some 18 to 19 thousand other former inmates.

HANS LEBRECHT, Secretary, Israeli Association of Anti-Fascist Fighters and Victims of Nazism, Tel Aviv.

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